

Posh Spice and David Beckham expecting baby

LONDON (AFP) — Posh Spice, 25, and David Beckham, 27, are expecting a baby in the next few months. The couple, who have been dating since 1997, are said to be expecting a boy.

Prince Albert of Monaco imposes on Romanian money

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Prince Albert of Monaco has imposed a ban on Romanian money in his principality. The prince, who is 56, said the ban was necessary to protect the economy of his principality.

Bassett: Danger to know the real people you play in a movie

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actress Ashley Judd says she is a danger to know the real people you play in a movie. She said she was often mistaken for the characters she plays.

When Goldilocks on the set, this go a bit wacky

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The movie "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" is a comedy about a girl who goes missing and is found by three bears. The movie is directed by Paul Verhoeven.

James Bond and Batman in the streets of Netherlands

THE HAGUE (AFP) — James Bond and Batman are the most popular movie characters in the Netherlands. The two characters are said to be the most popular movie characters in the Netherlands.

U.S. embassy gets second bomb hoax

AMMAN (AFP) — The U.S. embassy in Amman on Saturday received the second hoax telephone call in five days claiming there was a bomb in the embassy compound, a Jordanian official said. On receiving the anonymous call, an embassy employee alerted the police who searched the area but found no sign of an explosive device, the official said. The embassy is closed on Saturdays. The latest call follows U.S. missile strikes Thursday against alleged terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan. The U.S. embassy in Amman received a similar false bomb alert Tuesday. Security at the embassy was reinforced following the explosion of two bombs at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania August 7 which left nearly 260 dead and over 5,000 injured.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Volume 23 Number 6923

AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1998, JUMADA I 2, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Addressing senators, deputies and ministers Prince Hassan calls on nation to consolidate democracy through dialogue and transparency

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday called on Jordanians of all walks of life to consolidate democracy through dialogue and transparency and shun whatever actions that bear the seeds of division.

Addressing members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and the Cabinet at a lunch he hosted at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan said: "I am calling from this Hashemite Palace on all Jordanians including political groups, professional associations and all organisations to deal with differences within a civilised framework."

"We should rise above those issues that can create seditions and divisions," said the Crown Prince.

Following are major excerpts of the Regent's address:

I welcome you in the house of all Jordanians; and as we have always said we will remain open to all forms of responsible dialogue with members of the Jordanian family.

one family, small or big and with the pan-Arab family and we believe in living in harmony within the state, harmony among the executive, legislative and judicial authorities, we respect the independence of each authority and we reaffirm the principle of separate authorities and a full independence of the legislative authority.

At the same time we underline the need for cooperation and integration among the three branches of government within a framework of sustainable partnership and in an objective and practical manner dedicated to the common good and to the achievement of a better life for Jordanian citizens.

We believe in pluralism and I am confident that as partners we can shoulder the responsibility and overcome the difficult circumstances we are witnessing. We realise that the road ahead is not smooth but we also are committed to dealing with public issues in an exemplary manner and solidarity and joint action within the framework of democracy and the state of law. I believe that in this open and democratic state we are bound to face criticism. We welcome constructive criticism and we are envious by others. Any Arab country enjoying stability and accomplishing achievements is the object of envy by others.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, addresses senators, deputies and former and present government ministers at a luncheon he hosted at the Royal Court on Saturday (Photo by Boghos)

work. What has been achieved in the extraordinary session is bound to bear fruit and what remains can be debated in the next ordinary session. I hope you accept my call to activate parliament's various committees in order to maintain the dialogue with the executive authority over economic affairs and over the state's spending programme. I call on you to be committed in the coming decade and in the coming century to deal with the priorities which include water, energy and the environment as well as health issues. These issues require strenuous efforts. But I hope you can find the solutions and I hope you will express your will through commitment

despite the difficulties. This must be our main concern in the coming few weeks and months. His Majesty King Hussein is being briefed on everything. I spent forty minutes talking to him (Friday) on the telephone discussing details of different matters. I want to tell those belittling Jordan's achievements and sceptics to remember the King's words in which he said that the Jordanian state, a state of institutions, is growing step by step towards a better future. We don't accept any form of negligence or weakness. We don't claim to be infallible but we advocate quiet and fruitful dialogue within a framework of responsibility and within the state's institutions.

If sectarian and ethnic divisions are allowed to penetrate the Arab and Muslim people, then it will be the beginning of the end. In our country, Jordan, cohesion and unity among people are strong and we shoulder responsibilities towards ourselves and others.

Let me emphasise and be clear with regard to the political dimension. Our objective is to serve Jordan's interests and I would like to be clear that the common denominators among us and our brothers in the same nation do not contradict with Jordan's development of its relations with the Arab and Islamic countries.

(Continued on page 7)

Tarawneh off to meet with King today PM calls for dialogue instead of military action to resolve crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh today leaves for the United States to meet with His Majesty King Hussein currently undergoing medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

The prime minister is expected to brief the King on the new government's assessment of the situation in general including a report by a government-sponsored commission on the water crisis.

Speaking on the eve of his trip, Tarawneh said that he will convey Cabinet members' appreciation for the King's confidence in them and their pledge to live up to expectations in performing their duties.

King Hussein is on daily contact with HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and is informed on all issues of concern to the nation, the prime minister noted.

The government's plan of action is based on the King's directives contained in the letter of designation, which is regarded as guidelines for the coming stage, said the prime minister, adding that the King's letter of designation is directed to the state as a whole and not the government alone.

He said that the new government will instigate cooperation between the private and public sectors and the various state institutions.

There will be transparent, open and constructive dialogue with all sides and in true commitment to the King's directives, added Tarawneh.

Referring to the water crisis,



Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh is congratulated by visitors on Saturday (AFP photo)

door for open dialogue so as to avoid cruel reactions," added Tarawneh.

He said that the blasts at the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam resulted in the death and injury of innocent civilians including Muslims.

He expressed hope that nations will not resort to force to settle disputes stressing that international law and the U.N. Charter should be the judge in such cases.

Tarawneh, who spoke after receiving well wishers at the Prime Ministry, expressed appreciation and thanks to the public stressing that the government will do all that is in its power to translate the King's letter of designation into reality on the ground.

The well wishers included Royal family members, former prime ministers, former ministers, members of Parliament, senators, representatives of various organisations and heads of diplomatic missions in the Kingdom.

Repeating to a question about Jordan's position with regard to the terrorism, Tarawneh said that Jordan calls for dialogue among nations to discuss all issues including security.

"Should there be doubts or convincing proof or documents proving that terrorists have been involved in certain acts we should open the

Mulki: Water report to go to prosecutor

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government announced Saturday that it will forward the report of the committee investigating the water crisis to the prosecutor general so that legal action may be taken against the parties responsible.

Hani Mulki, minister of water, energy and mineral resources told the press during a conference late last night that the government discussed mechanisms of implementing the report's recommendations. The details of the report, however, were not released.

"The report was comprehensive and it has been found that some issues in the report have to go to the prosecutor general to decide what action should be taken against the responsible parties," Mulki told the press.

The minister declined to name those found responsible for the water problem, or say when the report would be released to the public.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, last week asked the government to make public the 100-page report on the water crisis prepared by a government committee formed on Aug. 4 to probe the crisis.

In addition, the Lower

Bashir: We are ready to return double the blow

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan on Saturday urged Sudan and the United States to start a dialogue to resolve their "differences."

Minister of Information Nasser Judeh, who was speaking to reporters following a Cabinet session late yesterday, warned that the situation will escalate in the region if the concerned parties fail to end their problems "peacefully."

"What we have seen in terms of action and reaction is another case in point. The vic-

times of this type of situation are usually innocent civilians regardless of their race, creed or colour," the minister said.

Judeh called on the U.S. to commit to international legitimacy "which is the only way to ensure peace and security for the world community... this means to settle differences peacefully."

The minister was referring to the U.S. bombing of a pharmaceutical plant in the heart of Khartoum on Thursday killing one employee and injuring hundreds.

closed for the day and boys and girls brought to the rally by buses but had to walk back home.

The demonstrators shouted anti-U.S. slogans including "Down USA," "Cowardly Clinton" and "The CIA will not rule us." They also shouted Islamic slogans and declared that "the Sudanese people are on the battlefield."

Demonstrators also tore up an American flag and used strips of the banner to wipe their shoes.

Some of them went to the

Government urges U.S., Sudan to start dialogue

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan on Saturday urged Sudan and the United States to start a dialogue to resolve their "differences."

Minister of Information Nasser Judeh, who was speaking to reporters following a Cabinet session late yesterday, warned that the situation will escalate in the region if the concerned parties fail to end their problems "peacefully."

"What we have seen in terms of action and reaction is another case in point. The vic-

times of this type of situation are usually innocent civilians regardless of their race, creed or colour," the minister said.

Judeh called on the U.S. to commit to international legitimacy "which is the only way to ensure peace and security for the world community... this means to settle differences peacefully."

The minister was referring to the U.S. bombing of a pharmaceutical plant in the heart of Khartoum on Thursday killing one employee and injuring hundreds.

Government, IMF negotiate extending reform programme

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to extend a reform programme by at least one year after the government was forced to reveal discrepancies in economic growth rates, officials and economists said on Saturday.

An extension to the IMF's 10-year economic restructuring programme, originally set to end in February 1999, will help Jordan regain credibility with donor and debtor states and keep the economy on a rigorous monetary and fiscal regime.

"Our talks with the IMF on an extension have reached an advanced stage and are expected to be over by this fall," one official told the Jordan Times.

The planning ministry said earlier this year the IMF programme would not be extended. Instead, it would be replaced with a local socio-economic development plan.

Although reforms have succeeded on the macroeconomic level — stabilisation of the exchange rate and high foreign currency reserves — the plan has failed to achieve sustainable economic growth, economists and bankers said.

The government's disclosure in June that

the economy has been growing at a snail's pace raised questions about the ability of the programme to generate growth as well as the political costs and benefits of pursuing such a course.

After reviewing growth figures, the government radically revised its six per cent growth rate figure for 1998 and forecast 3.2 per cent growth with a six per cent deficit, way-off IMF targets.

Planning officials had calculated 1996 GDP growth at five per cent rising to 5.2 per cent a year later. But this summer they conceded that the 1996 figure was 0.8 per cent, and the growth rate for 1997 was placed at around 2.5-3.0 per cent.

Officials and economists agree that regional instability, coupled with the government's failure to attract foreign investments and the private sector's slow reaction to the opening of the economy had played a role in successive governments missing pre-set growth rate targets.

Jordan, which spent most of the decade implementing a strict restructuring programme after a severe economic crisis in 1988, appeared to have been reaping the rewards of fiscal and monetary prudence.

Inflation was brought down to three per cent, well below the target agreed with the IMF, and foreign currency reserves were built up to cover almost five months worth

of imports, substantially above the target of three months and the budget deficit was reined in.

Successive governments have reformed Jordan's financial laws, simplified foreign investment codes and abolished food subsidies. The privatisation of state-owned enterprises was set on track, albeit in slow motion.

These achievements, supported by Department of Statistics figures and rechecked by the IMF and World Bank, made it easy for the government to boast about the country's economic "success story" and to dismiss persistent popular concerns over the stagnant economy.

Now the newly-appointed government of Faysal Tarawneh, armed with a team of experienced technocrats and economists, will have to deal with an economy growing much slower than the population. The gap translates into declining living standards, higher unemployment and increased poverty.

Tarawneh's government will have to

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

'If there is anything to be done, this is the government team to do it'

These achievements, supported by Department of Statistics figures and rechecked by the IMF and World Bank, made it easy for the government to boast about the country's economic "success story" and to dismiss persistent popular concerns over the stagnant economy.

Now the newly-appointed government of Faysal Tarawneh, armed with a team of experienced technocrats and economists, will have to deal with an economy growing much slower than the population. The gap translates into declining living standards, higher unemployment and increased poverty.

Tarawneh's government will have to

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

speed up economic reforms, downsize a bloated bureaucracy which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP and reduce the budget deficit — a herculean task.

Some economists believe the economy will not even come close to the predicted 3.2 per cent growth rate.

Economist and newspaper columnist

Iraq says it supports Sudan, condemns U.S. 'aggression'

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz described the United States as an "international criminal" during talks here Saturday with Sudan's foreign minister, according to the official news agency INA.

Aziz denounced "the cowardly American aggression against our Sudanese brothers and other attacks against Iraq and Libya that have shown the United States is an international criminal that practices terrorism in a flagrant and immoral fashion."

After meeting Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa

Osman Ismail, Aziz also stressed "the need for Arab solidarity in standing up to American aggression against the Arab World," mentioning not only the U.S. strike against a suspected chemical weapons plant in Khartoum but also the eight-year U.N. embargo on Iraq.

Iraq has been crippled by a U.N. embargo since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and is allowed to sell only limited supplies of oil to purchase humanitarian products as part of a U.N.-supervised "oil-for-food" programme.

The United Nations con-

firmed Friday that the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum targeted by U.S. missiles was supplying veterinary medicines to Iraq as part of the programme.

Ismail, who on Friday warned that a second U.S. attack on Sudan would not go unpunished, said that Sudan "will stand beside its Iraqi brothers" and called for "an immediate lifting of the embargo."

Meanwhile an official Iraqi newspaper said the U.S. strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan were "a new kind of terrorism" and called for international cooperation

against the United States.

"Protests and condemnations will not suffice to dissuade the forces of evil in the United States," said Al Jumhuriya newspaper.

"We were not surprised by the puerile, perverse and illogical attitude of the American administration, as seen in its aggression against Sudan and Afghanistan. We are witnessing a new kind of terrorism," it said.

The Babel newspaper, run by the son of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, declared earlier that the United States follows "the law of the jungle."

Algeria says anti-terror action should follow international law

ALGIERS (AP) — The Algerian government said Saturday that anti-terrorist action should follow international law, a veiled critique of this week's U.S. air strikes while Algeria faces criticism for its own anti-insurgency tactics.

All anti-terrorist action "must be carried out within the framework of international law," said the statement read on state radio and printed in pro-government newspapers Saturday.

The surprise U.S. strikes Thursday against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, identified by Washington as sites of terrorist activity, drew angry protests in a number of Arab countries.

The strikes were in retaliation for the terrorist bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania the week before.

At the same time, Algeria is under fire for its tactics in fighting a 6 1/2-year-old Muslim insurgency that has left more than 75,000 people dead. A U.N. fact-finding team is preparing a report of its findings from a visit last month.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry statement cited "the necessity for a global and concerted response by the international community." It called for "the rapid conclusion, under auspices of the United Nations, of an overall international convention on fighting terrorism." The statement noted "the transnational character of terrorism and the threat it poses to the stability of states and international security."

Sudan dissidents say terror will end only when government toppled

CAIRO (AP) — The only way to end the Sudanese government's support for terrorism is to overthrow it, Sudanese opposition groups said here Saturday.

A statement issued at the end of a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance, the umbrella group of Sudanese dissidents, said the Khartoum government "depends on terrorism as a means of extending its authority and combating the popular movement which opposes its policies." Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported.

The alliance meeting in the Egyptian capital came two days after U.S. missiles destroyed a factory in north Khartoum which the Americans said made the ingredients of chemical weapons.

Sudan said it manufactured only pharmaceutical products.

"The ruling regime in Khartoum opened Sudan's doors to the militant groups and international terrorism... and gave them weapons and money, and helped them to penetrate other countries to carry out criminal acts," said the statement.

The United States and Egypt have long accused Sudan of harbouring Islamists. The United States has withdrawn its diplomats from Khartoum and imposed limited sanctions on Sudan because of this concern.

Egypt accuses Khartoum of providing sanctuary for three men implicated in the 1995 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak.

Sudan denies the U.S. and Egyptian allegations.

The alliance called on the international community to send a committee to investigate "the terrorist sites in Sudan which produce chemical weapons," MENA reported.

Sudan's role in terrorism will not end "until the dictatorial regime in Sudan, which instilled the culture of violence and terrorism in the region, is removed," the alliance said.

The alliance includes the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which has been waging an insurrection in southern Sudan since 1983, and the Umma Party of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who was overthrown when the military-backed government seized power in 1989.

The head of the alliance, Mohammad Othman Al Menghani, met Saturday with Egyptian foreign minister for talks on recent events in Sudan, reported MENA. No other details were immediately available.

More than 1.5 million people have died in the Sudanese insurrection and related famines.

Western news organisation in Cairo and signed by Al Gamaa Al Islamiya.

In November, gunmen belonging to the group killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians in an attack at a Pharaonic temple in southern Egypt.

The group, Egypt's largest Islamic movement, has been engaged in a five-year-long struggle to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular administration and set up an Islamic government. Some 1,200 people, mostly Islamists and police, have died in the

fighting.

"The time has come to end the policy of cutting off the heads of Muslims, and presenting them... on the steps of the American White House to cover the love affairs of its leaders and their internal scandals," the statement said.

Many Arab newspapers have speculated that President Clinton launched the attack to draw attention from his affair with Monica Lewinsky, a White House intern.

"One billion Muslims are capable of turning their bodies



INVESTIGATION INTO JOURNALIST'S SHOOTING: A Palestinian policeman tries unsuccessfully to stop a foreign camera crew from filming Saturday in the West Bank town of Al Bireh. The crew is making a film about AFP photographer Manoocher Dehghani (R), who was wounded by Israeli soldiers in September 1996 during riots sparked by the opening of a tunnel in nearby Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Gamaa calls for retaliation against U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian Islamist group urged Muslims Saturday to retaliate against the United States for its strikes against sites in Afghanistan and Sudan and warned that "one billion Muslims are capable of turning their bodies into bombs."

"The Islamic movements, and the Jihad [Holy war] movements in particular, are called on to carry out their role in standing against American insolence and to respond in a language they understand," said a statement faxed to a

Western news organisation in Cairo and signed by Al Gamaa Al Islamiya.

In November, gunmen belonging to the group killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians in an attack at a Pharaonic temple in southern Egypt.

The group, Egypt's largest Islamic movement, has been engaged in a five-year-long struggle to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular administration and set up an Islamic government. Some 1,200 people, mostly Islamists and police, have died in the

fighting.

"The time has come to end the policy of cutting off the heads of Muslims, and presenting them... on the steps of the American White House to cover the love affairs of its leaders and their internal scandals," the statement said.

Many Arab newspapers have speculated that President Clinton launched the attack to draw attention from his affair with Monica Lewinsky, a White House intern.

"One billion Muslims are capable of turning their bodies

into bombs, the strength of which will equal what the Americans own in destructive weaponry," the statement added.

Unlike Palestinian Islamists, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya has not used suicide bombers in any of its raids.

The statement also "urged Muslims to voice their anger over the attack and to 'surround American embassies in our Islamic countries and force the rulers to close them and kick out their espionage missions'."

Egypt's Nobel laureate bares his soul — and stirs a storm

By Salah Nasrawi
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Renowned Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz first got into trouble by backing peace with Israel. Then the Nobel laureate was declared a heretic by Islamists and was stabbed in an assassination attempt.

Now, at age 86, Mahfouz is creating an even bigger fuss, raising wrath both in Egypt and the Arab World with his criticism of an Arab icon, the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

In a new autobiography, Mahfouz declares Nasser was a dictator who brought Egypt social and economic disaster and — worse — failed to bring it democracy.

Nasser's greatest triumph, the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, was "a victory by... media and propaganda," Mahfouz wrote.

"On the military side, we were defeated" in the ensuing 1956 war when Britain, France and Israel invaded Egypt, he added. "On the political side, it was a great loss because it put Egypt in direct conflict with the superpowers." The outspoken criticism has stirred up a storm, but also a debate.

Since the June publication of "Naguib Mahfouz. Pages from his Memoirs," Cairo newspapers have almost daily printed diatribes against Mahfouz or praise for his revisionist views — and for his honesty.

His ideas have been debated in the Arab world's most prominent newspaper, the London-based daily Al Hayat, and on the popular Al Jazeera television watched throughout the region.

Mahfouz's personal revelations brought shock, too. Publicly confessing to smoking hashish and having sex outside marriage is not expected of a man revered as the literary pharaoh of deeply Muslim Egypt.

Interestingly, the behaviour is like that of the patriarch of an Old Cairo merchant family whose fortunes are chronicled in Mahfouz's most famous work, the three novels of his "Cairo Trilogy" published in 1956-57. In them, the father adheres to conservative Muslim social mores at home, but also drinks alcohol, smokes hashish and goes to brothels.

But the harshest reaction has been to Mahfouz's judgement that the social and economic progress credited to Nasser is mere myth.

Critics say Mahfouz, a supporter of the liberal Wafd Party, is just settling scores because Nasser's ouster of the monarchy in 1952 also toppled a Wafd government and sent the party into political exile.

They also question why Mahfouz waited so long to denounce the Egyptian leader, who died in 1970. "It has always been said Mahfouz was hypocritical towards the rulers and indeed the book reveals he was. The evidence is he did not say Nasser was

a dictator until after his death," Egyptian novelist Sonallah Ibrahim wrote in a Cairo weekly.

In his book, Mahfouz says he first had mixed feelings about Nasser's military coup that Egyptians call their 1952 revolution — "love and support" but also anger at the treatment of the Wafd.

Eventually he concluded that Wafd's downfall was but one sign of Nasser's "denial of democracy and... unilateral rule" and that the leader's much-praised social policies were a disaster.

In a rare interview with a Western news organisation, Mahfouz told the Associated Press that Nasser's promise of free education had churned out "graduates with a degree in ignorance" since Egypt didn't have the resources to teach millions of students.

The government's turning over of farms to peasants proved a catastrophe that split Egypt's farmland into tiny, unprofitable plots and shattered its agricultural potential, Mahfouz said.

"We have this huge land and huge river yet we're unable to feed ourselves," he said, sitting at a coffee house along the Nile.

Despite the furor over his book, Mahfouz maintained he revealed nothing that most Egyptians did not already know.

"These were events which we all lived through, and whether they were right or wrong, they are now history from which we should learn," he said.

Mahfouz, who has written 34 novels and whose

tales of life in Cairo's medieval lanes won the 1988 Nobel Prize in literature, is used to controversy.

His support of Egypt's 1979 peace accord with Israel was scorned by most Arab intellectuals. His allegorical novel "Children of Gebelawi" enraged Islamists, who said it violated Islam's ban on depicting the Prophet Mohammad and other holy figures.

Sheik Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric jailed in the United States for a 1993 plot to bomb New York landmarks, called for Mahfouz's death over the book. In 1994, knife-wielding attackers tried to kill the novelist outside his home.

He was seriously wounded in the neck and right arm. Since Mahfouz writes in longhand Arabic script, he still has trouble working. His autobiography resulted from 50 hours of taped dictation.

Even some critics of Mahfouz's attack on Nasser express admiration for his outspokenness.

"We should thank Mahfouz for his confessions because he is teaching us on how to be more courageous and more sincere about ourselves," said Salah Fadl, a professor of literary criticism at Cairo University.

But novelist Adel Hamoudeh doubts that conservative Egypt can accept its most famous writer's revelations, especially his brothel visits and smoking hashish.

"The question remains: are we ready to see ourselves naked before our eyes," Hamoudeh said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther

15:20 Cartoon — The Pumpkin Patch

15:30 The Adventures of the Black Stallion

16:00 The American Chart Show

17:00 ...Doc... Royal Blood

18:00 Drama — Bonne Esperance

19:00 ...Le Journal

19:15 French Programme — Science Magazine (E-M6)

19:30 ...News Headlines

19:35 Life's Most Embarrassing Moments

20:00 ...People Count

20:30 Talk Show — Challenges

21:00 ...Drama — Renegade

22:00 ...News in English

22:30 ...Mini-series — Dead Man's Walk (pt. 1)

00:10 The History of Rock and Roll

00:30 ...End of T. X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 ...Fajr

06:00 ...Sunrise Duha

12:38 ...Dhuhr

16:16 ...Asr

19:17 ...Maghreb

20:39 ...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather conditions

tions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In

Aqaba, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman... 20/32

Aqaba... 27/38

Deserts... 18/35

Jordan Valley... 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 34, Aqaba 38 Humidity

readings: Amman 30 per cent,

Aqaba 36 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun... 28

Jerash... 34

Um Qays... 33

Madaba... 33

Petra... 35

Dead Sea... 39

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Majid Sha'ir... 4391405

Dr. Fakhri Tayeh... 4915880

Dr. Fakhri Bilbeisi... 5522233

Dr. Mazen Sha'ir... 5350435

Firas pharmacy... 5661912

Al Asema pharmacy... 4637055

Naroukh pharmacy... 4623672

Al Salam pharmacy... 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy... 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy... 4637660

Najib pharmacy... 5347632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Shari... 273689

Al Quds pharmacy... ()

ZARQA:

Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi... 906606

Khalifah pharmacy... 485417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 4637111

Civil Defence Department... 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue... 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency... 199

Rescue Police [92, 462111], 4637777

Jerash... 5353444

Um Qays... 33

Madaba... 33

Petra... 35

Dead Sea... 39

Blood Bank... 4775121

Highway Police... 5343402

Traffic Police... 4896340

Public Security Dept... 4630321

Hotel Complaints... 5605800

Price Complaints... 5661176

Water & Sewage Complaints... 4897467

Amman Municipality Complaints... 4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)... 121

Overseas Calls... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs... 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs... 5661101

Jordan Television... 4773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery... 9921199

The Islamic, Abdi... 5664131/7

Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Luzila... 4630195

Khalidi Maternity... 4642816

Akileh Maternity... 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman... 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani... 5607071

Shmeisani Hospital... 5669131

University Hospital... 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital... 5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdi... 5664

Queen celebrates 47th birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 47th birthday today with His Majesty King Hussein and their family in Washington D.C., according to a statement from the Royal Court.

Queen Noor expressed her appreciation and gratitude to those contributing to "Al Iim Noor Student Relief Fund," which was established two years ago on the occasion of the Queen's birthday to ensure that all students in the Kingdom are given the opportunity to complete their education. This year money from the fund will also finance the treatment of children with cancer in Jordan at Al Amal Centre, it added.

Queen Noor assumed the chair of Al Amal this year, which is Jordan's first comprehensive centre specialised in early detection, treatment and rehabilitation of cancer patients from the country and the Arab region. The Queen said the establishment of such a centre was due to the "generosity, compassion and dedication of so many Jordanians who have made this possible."

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) plans to launch a children's play called "The Kind Chemo," to raise awareness of cancer and its treatment. The NHF has recently signed an agreement with UNESCO to implement the "Microcredit Programme for Children in Need" in 20 villages throughout the Kingdom. This joint endeavour will strengthen and expand NHF's loan programme ben-

efiting needy families and their children, which is already in place through the Foundation's comprehensive community development projects and which has registered the highest repayment rates in Jordan, the statement added.

Queen Noor also became the patron of the Landmine Survivors Network (LSN), the first international organisation created by landmine survivors for landmine survivors. The LSN serves on the steering committee of the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and chairs the first global task-force on victim assistance.

Under her patronage, the first international meeting on landmine injury and rehabilitation in the Middle East, "Surviving the Scourge of Landmines," was held in Amman last July. The conference, which was organised by the LSN in cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the Hashemite Society for Soldiers with Special Needs and the ICBL, focused on the global mine ban treaty and the wide range of victim assistance programmes.

At the conference, Queen Noor announced Jordan's signing of the Ottawa Convention to ban anti-personnel landmines. In addition to the ongoing national demining programme, which began in 1993, Jordan has participated in all international conferences on the elimination of landmines and has initiated awareness programmes in schools and universities. The



JNRCS has also launched a project to establish a centre for the rehabilitation and training of landmine survivors, the statement said.

Queen Noor opened last June the second Leadership Programme of the United Nations

University/International Leadership Academy (UNU/ILA) in Jordan. The UNU/ILA, which the Queen chairs, is the world's first global leadership training facility that aims to create a network of enlightened future leaders who will enhance cooperation and peace through dialogue and intercultural exchange. Another peace-through-education programme is the United World Colleges (UWC), a network of 10 equal-opportunity international colleges around the world that aim to foster cross-cultural understanding

and global peace. Queen Noor and South African President Nelson Mandela are president of UWC movement and of the UWC International Council, respectively, according to the announcement.

Queen Noor is also patron of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, which was the first non-governmental organisation of its kind in the Arab World and is the leading partner in the Middle East for BirdLife International. BirdLife, of which Queen Noor is honorary president, is a global partnership of conservation NGOs with a special focus on birds, the longest established international conservation organisation in the world, the statement added.

Closing investigation of mass murder Prosecutor charges teenager with 12 counts of murder

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Prosecutor on Saturday charged a 19-year-old student who allegedly confessed to killing 11 relatives and one friend in June with 12 counts of first degree murder, judicial sources said.

The list of charges against Sa'eed Qashash was also sent to the Criminal Court, which is expected to set a date for the trial after the defence attorney's summer holiday ends on Sept. 1, they added.

Qashash allegedly confessed to murdering his mother, father, other family members and his school friend Ata Shaalan on June 10 in an

unprecedented grizzly mass murder that shocked many Jordanians.

The suspect, who expected to fail the tawjihi (state-run high school exams) for the second year in a row, allegedly told interrogators he decided to kill his family members "because they threatened to kick him out of the house if he failed again in 1998," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

"He told interrogators he decided to get rid of all the people who bothered him," he said.

If found guilty of pre-meditated murder, Qashash will face the death penalty, attorneys said.

Most of the victims were

shot one after the other as he lured them to the basement of his house. Later, he piled the bodies on top of each other, covered them with a blanket and sealed the basement's windows and door with bricks and cement to hide the crime.

The bodies of the 12 victims were recovered from Qashash's house in the village of Bnyat, south of Amman.

"Criminal Prosecutor Hassan Abdallah closed the questioning and interrogation of Qashash and the file was referred to the Criminal Court on Saturday," one judicial source told the Jordan Times.

The Criminal Prosecutor asked the court to indict him

on all charges," he added.

The prosecution is expected to summon 20 witnesses, another judicial source said.

Following the disclosure of the details of the crime, educators and sociologists urged school reforms and asked the government to adopt different measures for the tawjihi exams to ease pressure on students.

The victims included Qashash's mother Thurayah, 50, his father Amin, 57, his sisters Karimah, 25, Mirvat, 17, Wafa, nine, Insa, 27, her 30-year-old husband, Jamal Turk, 30, and their two children, Hala, two, and Zaid, three, as well as his brothers Mohammad, 30, and Mustafa, 17.

School administrators see problems unless water crisis solved 'soon'

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Back to school season is around the corner, but school administrators say they are concerned about opening on schedule with the water crisis now in its seventh week.

The school management does not know how to deal with the water shortage problem," said a board member of Al Orouba Private School. "The water supply is barely enough for 100 students, and the school is expecting 800 students to enrol in the coming scholastic year."

There have been calls from several people for the Ministry of Education to delay the opening of the school year until the water problem is solved.

But a ministry official said schools would begin on time. "The schools will reopen as scheduled on Sept. 1," said Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat.

"Delaying the scholastic year will not solve the problem, unless the water problem is solved," said the principal of the New English School.

A school doctor, who declined to be named, said the water shortage could cause the spread of different kinds of diseases among children because of the close contact between them.

Recent government measures to crack down on water tanker drivers profiteering from the crisis have drawn public complaints that these measures have reduced the water supply

from private wells.

One school headmaster complained that even if his school wanted to depend on wellwater, it would not be possible to supply the school with the needed amount because of the high demand for water and soaring prices.

The headmaster added the water crisis must be solved "soon" to enable schools to function properly. "Even if there is no water to wash, children need to drink water. Can you imagine each child holding a bottle of water while walking in the schoolyard?" she asked.

Newly appointed Minister of Water, Energy and Mineral Resources Hani Mulki on Friday assured citizens the water crisis would be resolved by the time schools open their doors.

Amman mayor Abbadi steps down

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government yesterday accepted the resignation of Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, who was immediately replaced by his deputy Nidal Hadid.

Information Minister Nasser Judeh told a press conference late yesterday that Abbadi submitted his resignation but did not give any reasons for leaving his post.

During Abbadi's five-year term as mayor, the capital city witnessed numerous changes in public facilities and services.

A new market in the Al Wihdat area was built to provide essential services for vendors and make shopping easier. Several traffic tunnels were built to ease traffic congestion in Amman, including a tunnel connecting the downtown to Wadi Haddada and two at the Third Circle area.

Currently, a new sports city with a seating capacity of 5,000 is being built in eastern Amman. A number of public gardens were built across the capital, and the municipality renamed 75 per cent of Amman's streets and neighbourhoods.

Treaty puts Jordan on road to eliminating landmines

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has assumed the responsibility of completely eliminating anti-personnel (AP) landmines from its territory, helping mine victims and other tasks with its recent signing of the Ottawa Treaty banning AP mines, now awaiting ratification by Parliament before it goes into effect.

The treaty, to which Jordan became the 129th signatory on Aug. 12, obliges ratifying states to destroy stockpiles of AP mines and prohibits their development, production, transfer and use.

"A state becomes legally bound when it ratifies the treaty after the signature," Jordan signed, and now the government has to take the necessary measures to ratify the treaty," Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations, Hassan Abu Ni'meh, told the Jordan Times.

Jordan is obliged under the provisions of the treaty to clear AP mines found in minefields and public and private property within 10 years. Landmine stocks must be destroyed within four years.

The Kingdom is presently at the second phase of a three-phase mine clearing programme. According to General Nasser Majali from the Royal Corps of Engineers, the programme began in 1993.

"As of 1993 and for two years, we cleared 30 minefields in the northern and western regions of the Jordan Valley," Gen. Majali told the Jordan Times.

Phase one ended with the removal of 14,000. The second phase, which started in 1995, unearthed 50,000 mines.

According to the treaty, states which are affected by large-scale mine contamination and find it difficult to meet the 10-year deadline can ask for an extension of up to 10 years, and "an extension period may be granted more than once."

Once Jordan ratifies the treaty, it has to report on its landmine clearance activities, said Abu Ni'meh, who signed the treaty on behalf of the Kingdom at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

Jordan will have to send an annual report to the U.N. secretary general with information on the number and types

of AP mines stockpiled, destroyed, and types kept for training purposes.

A country is allowed to retain or transfer a limited quantity of mines for training purposes. But the treaty stipulates that "the number of mines kept shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for such purposes."

As Jordan has limited financial and technical means to demine, it can under article six of the treaty ask for assistance from other states party to the treaty. Jordan is already receiving financial and technical backing from countries such as Canada, Norway, and the United States.

Finally, the treaty stipulates that states with the available resources have a duty to socially and economically reintegrate landmine victims into society. A total of 400 people, including both military personnel and civilians, have been injured by landmines in Jordan. Around 10 per cent of the population live in areas still dangerous and economically unproductive because of planted landmines.

In Jordan, assistance may be provided by various parties

such as the Jordan National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (JNRCS). Plans are already under way "for a regional centre for landmine injury and rehabilitation in Jordan."

"Some money has been made available for Jordan in this field and we are now preparing for this project," JNRCS President Mohammad Hadid told the Jordan Times.

Hadid said the centre would be located at a JNRCS branch "for the fitting of artificial limbs, rehabilitation, training and counselling [of landmine victims]."

With its signing of the treaty, Jordan joined Qatar, Tunisia, Algeria and Yemen as the only countries in the region to do so, leaving another 13 countries, including Israel, Syria and Iraq, to follow suit.

A series of meetings to review the implementation of the treaty have been planned at an annual level for states which have ratified the treaty, as well as other special meetings to examine particular problems regarding non-compliance. A full review conference is slated for the year 2004.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives message from Toukan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Saturday a message from Ala' Uddin Toukan thanking him and HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in his name and on behalf of the Toukan family for his condolences over the death of Baha Uddin Toukan, father of the late Queen Alia. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali and Princess Haya also expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Jordanians and all Arabs for offering condolences over the death of their grandfather.

King receives condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received several condolences from Arab leaders over death of Baha Uddin Toukan. King Hussein received cables from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah, Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani and Qatari Crown Prince Jasssem Ben Hamad Al Thani.

King's advisor leaves for Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's advisor Salah Abu Zeid left for Malaysia to deliver a message from HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad regarding means of bolstering bilateral relations. Abu Zeid will also visit Kuala Lumpur to deliver another message from Prince Hassan.

New UJ president appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — Walid Maani, University of Jordan vice president, was appointed Saturday as acting president of the university following former President Fawzi Gharaibeh's appointment as minister of education in the new government.

what's going on

SUMMER '98 FESTIVAL

Summer '98 cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Wadi Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

• Dialogue with Lebanese artist Yousef Aoun at 7:00

EXHIBITIONS

Graphic art from Lebanon (south hall), works by Lebanese artist Yousef Aoun (middle hall), works by Lebanese artist Sahel Hiasi (north hall) at the Main

• Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama (main hall), and Jordanian artist Said Haddadin (small hall) at the Main

• Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Main

• Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.

EXHIBITIONS

• Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Al-Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman

• Exhibition of products at the Jordan Design Centre/Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Weibdeh, 9141/2, until Aug. 31.

• Exhibition in Humanities and Environment" by Jordanian artist Ghali Art Gallery, Um Utheina, until Sept. 30.

German opposition starts final phase of campaign to unseat Kohl

BERLIN (AFP) — German Chancellor hopeful Gerhard Schröder championed himself as a defender of social justice as he kicked off Saturday his final run to unseat Helmut Kohl in general elections Sept. 27.

Speaking in Berlin, the first of three rallies planned also in Munich and Bonn Saturday, the leftist Schröder repeated his pledge to roll back pension cuts and reductions in sick pay instituted by Kohl's conservative government.

"These are not reforms," said Schröder about Kohl's measures. "These are brazen attacks on the assets of our people," he told a crowd of several thousand at the Berlin square Gendarmenmarkt.

Schröder also said his Social Democrats (SPD), out of power to Kohl for the past 16 years, were now "united. We have learned how to fight and we will win."

The long-serving Kohl, 68, has been struggling against the younger, media-savvy Schröder, 54, who has been consistently ahead in opinion polls since becoming the opposition SPD candidate in March.

But the gap has narrowed and pollster Reinhard Schlinkert told AFP this week that Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is "no longer in such a hopeless situation as two months ago."

Kohl is to launch his campaign in the five-week run

down to the national vote with a rally Sunday in the western city of Dortmund, where a crowd of 18,000 is expected.

SPD chief Oskar Lafontaine told the Berlin crowd Saturday that Kohl had left Germany with record levels of unemployment and a large public debt.

But unemployment has been dropping over the past few months, falling from 4.823 million in January to 4.134 million in July, and Kohl's CDU/Christian Social Union (CSU) alliance has nibbled at the SPD lead, put at pollsters at from three to five per cent.

Kohl is counting on the large number of undecided voters, put by polls at about 25 per cent of the electorate, to move his way but SPD officials say the chancellor is too far behind to recover.

Schröder had said earlier this week that if elected in September he would lower taxes and block pension cuts in his first 100 days in office.

He had said his programme was limited to "what is doable" as voters were weary of "overblown promises."

Fighting unemployment in Germany was the priority, he said. "That should be the measure of a government," Schröder said.

The 10-page SPD programme is entitled "Departure for a modern and just Germany" and

Saturday's campaigning was under the theme "Prelude to change."

Schröder is trying to counter charges from Kohl that he is presenting few specific proposals, beyond his claim to be for a new middle joining the left and the right in the style of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's New Labour.

Government spokesman Otto Hauser attacked in a communiqué Thursday Schröder's plan to roll back pension cuts as something that would have "disastrous results for German competitiveness, would seriously disturb the economic revival and stop new jobs being created."

The SPD programme calls for cancelling drops in pension payments that would as of 1999 begin bringing pensions from 70 per cent of net average salary down to 64 per cent.

The SPD wants pensions payments to take account of people living longer.

The Social Democrats also seek to annul a law that allows employers since the end of 1996 to reduce to 80 per cent, against 100 per cent previously, salary sick payments for the first six weeks of a leave due to illness.

The party foresees tax cuts of 10 billion marks (\$5.5 billion).

Kohl wants to cut taxes overall by triple this amount, 30 billion marks.



Gerhard Schröder, German Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate for the upcoming German general elections flashes the victory sign during an election campaign rally in Berlin. Schröder kicks off the final phase of his campaign to defeat German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in next month's general elections with mass rallies in Berlin, Munich and Bonn (Reuters photo)

Jospin gets record approval rating; Chirac's score also rises

PARIS (AP) — Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin is still riding high in the polls, reaching a record approval rating of 63 per cent in a new survey released Saturday.

Conservative President Jacques Chirac got his third-highest score.

Benefiting from a gradual economic recovery, Jospin's rating rose four points since last month, said the IFOP polling agency.

It was Jospin's highest IFOP score since taking office in June last year.

Chirac's positive rating, 62 per cent, was up three points from the month before.

It was Chirac's third-highest score since the 63 and 64 per cent ratings he received in late 1995, said IFOP, which conducted the survey for the newspaper Journal de Dimanche.

Chirac and Jospin have both enjoyed strong public support in recent months as unemployment fell below 12 per cent and 1998 growth is expected at around 3 per cent.

Pollsters have also pointed to an upbeat national mood during summer vaca-

tion and after the French hosted and won the World Cup of soccer in July.

Pollsters caution that the leaders' public support could wane when the French return to work next month and unions threaten protests against austerity measures and a 35-hour work week plan Jospin has had trouble convincing businesses to accept.

Elected in May 1995, Chirac stumbled last year when he called early parliamentary elections in which Jospin's leftist coalition defeated the president's conservatives, forcing Chirac to share power.

But the public has generally approved of the "cohabitation" between Chirac and the moderate Jospin, who has proceeded with privatisations and budgetary austerity to prepare for the euro currency next year.

The poll was conducted Aug. 20-21 and surveyed a nationally representative sampling of 927 French adults. No margin of error was given, but French polls of that magnitude usually carry a margin of 2-3 per cent.

Rebels say they near Kinshasa

KINSHASA (R) — Rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo said Saturday they were nearing the outskirts of the capital Kinshasa, and President Laurent Kabila decided not to go to a peace summit in South Africa.

"He is prevented from attending. He will not go to South Africa," Information Minister Didier Mumengeti told Reuters.

He said Congo would be represented by Transport Minister Henri Moya and Justice Minister Mwenze Kongo.

"They have already left by plane and are heading for Pretoria," he added.

As he spoke, rebels advancing northeast towards Kinshasa said they were just 30 km from the city at the town of Kasungulu after capturing two other towns, Kisantu and Madimba, overnight.

"Our forces are advancing. They have moved beyond Madimba and are now in Kasungulu," rebel commander Dioudonne Kabengele told Reuters correspondent Buchirya Mseteka in Kisantu about 70 km behind the rebel front line.

There was no independent confirmation of this, nor any verification of reports that Zimbabwean combat troops had joined forces loyal to Kabila.

In the rebel-held east of the war-ravaged country, renegade Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha told reporters the rebels had shot down two Zimbabwean jet fighters over the western front.

There was no immediate confirmation. Newspapers in Harare said Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe had sent troops and planes to support Kabila, who is facing a Rwandan-backed Tutsi uprising. Diplomats said Friday that up to 600 soldiers and four jet fighters had been sent.

Angola, which has declared its willingness to support Kabila, was also reported to be massing troops and tanks in the enclave of Cabinda on the southwestern border of the former Zaire.

In Pretoria, a South African official said President Nelson Mandela would push ahead with a meeting Saturday of representatives from Congo, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Uganda to seek a solution to the crisis, but without two of the key players.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said that Kabila, saying he was ill, was sending a minister and that Mandela had asked Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano to try to persuade Mugabe to change his mind and attend.

Mankahlana said that Rwandan President Pasteur

Bizimungu and Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni were already in South Africa for the meeting.

"The intention is to today work out a basis for establishing a government of national unity in the Congo and find agreement on resolving the problem by peaceful means," Mankahlana said.

Mandela advocates a diplomatic solution. Saturday's meeting is supposed to be followed by a full summit of the 14-nation Southern African Development Community to try to resolve the conflict threatening the stability of the entire region.

Kabila, who toppled veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997, accuses his then allies Rwanda and Uganda of invading in support of rebels who rose against him on Aug. 2.

State radio said Friday that he was in the southern city of Lubumbashi in his home province of Katanga.

Kabila fell out with his mentors over ways of ensuring security in eastern Congo on their common border and over the status and role of Congo's ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge minority.

Tutsi soldiers launched the revolt in Goma in the east, where the rebels hold the major towns near the border.

The revolt, which has a political leadership demand-

ing democracy and includes soldiers who served in the late Mobutu's army, began after Kabila ordered all Rwandan soldiers to leave the country.

Kabila has promised elections for next April but rules by decree after banning politics last year.

Rwanda and Uganda both deny involvement in the revolt.

Independent sources say that Rwanda is once again involved.

Kinshasa itself spent a fifth night without electricity after yet another power cut blamed on rebels holding the giant Inga hydroelectric dam near Matadi.

As Thursday, power returned for a few hours Friday afternoon before a fresh outage plunged the city into darkness.

There was little sign of panic in the city or even among those members of the government who were in town, but the power cut has disrupted supplies of water to some parts of the city.

Residents and state media report shortages of staple foods such as maize and corn in the markets, with some prices tripling.

State radio has told traders to keep their shops open and not hold on to stocks in anticipation of a higher profit, saying that anyone who did so would be prosecuted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norwegian police end Greenpeace drill rig protest

OSLO (R) — Norwegian police used water cannon Saturday to end a protest on an oil drilling rig by Greenpeace environmental activists, Greenpeace said. It said three activists — a Briton, a Norwegian and a Swede — were arrested after a 48-hour occupation of the deep-sea Bergen rig. The rig was leased by Norway's state oil firm Statoil and Saga Petroleum ASA and was moored in the Norwegian Sea about 120 nautical miles off Kristiansund. Eight Greenpeace campaigners had originally boarded the rig Thursday in a campaign to persuade oil companies to switch to developing renewable energy. Three had remained on board, setting up a survival capsule hanging below the deck of the rig. Greenpeace said in a statement that Norwegian police used water cannon, nets and professional climbers to raise the survival capsule onto the deck of the rig and arrest the protesters. "This was a peaceful protest to point out the madness of spending billions of dollars looking for more oil when we already have found at least four times as much as we can afford to burn without causing dangerous climate change," said Greenpeace's Nordic director Per Stenbeck in a statement. Statoil said the rig was on the northerly part of the Kristin field where it had just finished drilling a gas and condensate well. Kristin is one of the largest hydrocarbon discoveries in Norwegian waters in the last 10 years and is thought to hold more than 700 million barrels of oil equivalent. The well had been plugged and secured before the activists boarded the rig's lower decks.

Bonnie launches 1998 hurricane season in Atlantic

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Hurricane Bonnie, the first hurricane of the year in the Atlantic region, was heading towards the Bahamas early Saturday, U.S. weather forecasters said. Bonnie, whose centre was 193 kilometres northeast of Turks Island, had sustained winds of 120 kilometres per hour, said John Guiney of the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. Bonnie, a category one hurricane, was expected to arrive by late Monday at the most northeastern tip of the Bahamas, which were expected to get some "fringe effects" of the hurricane, Guiney said. "The potential for hurricane-force winds (on the Bahamas) is possible," he said. A hurricane warning was in effect for the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southern and eastern islands in the Bahamas. Bonnie, which was upgraded from a tropical storm overnight Friday, is the first of an average six hurricanes a year in the Atlantic basin.

Japanese turn out in droves for samba festival

TOKYO (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Japanese lined the streets in downtown Tokyo Saturday to watch revellers in elaborate — and skimpy — costumes dance in the city's annual Rio-style samba festival. Nearly 400,000 spectators crowded the main drag in Tokyo's traditional Asakusa district Saturday afternoon to see the show, now in its 18th year. The turnout was 5 per cent higher than last year, police said. "I think it was interesting to get to see something of the culture of Brazil," said Karla Bridges of Nicaragua. The growing number of Brazilians living in Japan — now more than 200,000 — were the architects of the two-day festival, which started Friday. The party attracts people from all over the country, and similar festivals are held in more than a dozen other Japanese cities. Some 3,000 dancers joined the parade, including samba clubs from Brazil and 31 teams from around Japan. There are more than 100 samba schools in Japan, the biggest with more than 800 members. Japanese samba lovers have created a small but dedicated market for samba music here, making rare recordings easier to find in Tokyo than in Rio, where shops rarely sell anything older than the latest hits. Ties between Japan and Brazil go back nearly a century. This year's festival marked the 90th anniversary of Japanese immigration to the South American country.

Wanda Toscanini Horowitz dies at 90

NEW YORK (AP) — Wanda Toscanini Horowitz, the daughter of the famed conductor and wife of pianist Vladimir Horowitz, has died in Manhattan. She was 90. Horowitz died at her home Friday; the cause of death was not immediately known. She was born in Milan, the youngest of four children. As a young woman, she served as assistant to her mother, who saw to the maestro's needs for his concert tours. After marrying the pianist in 1933, Horowitz followed her mother's example and began to serve her husband. Their marriage lasted for 55 years, a time when Horowitz was considered the greatest pianist of all time. Shortly before her husband died in 1989, Horowitz acknowledged some of the difficult times the couple endured. They separated briefly in 1949. At one point, the Russian-born pianist stopped playing for 12 years. The couple had one daughter, Sonia, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident and died at age 40 in 1974. They leave no immediate family members.

Contaminated alcohol, herbal brew kill 40 in Kenya

NAIROBI (AFP) — Some 40 people have died in western Kenya after drinking bootleg alcohol and a herbal brew, local newspapers reported Saturday. The semi-official Kenya Times said 33 people died and 10 others went blind in the Mai Mahiu area of Nakuru district and in the neighbouring Narok district after drinking the poisonous alcohol. The East African Standard said the drink called "power alcohol" is believed to have been laced with methanol or petrol to make it more potent. Seven other people died after a Tanzanian witch-hunter forced villagers in the Kuria district to drink the herbal concoction telling them that it would not affect them if they had not performed witchcraft. The witch-hunter had been hired by a soldier who believed that neighbours had caused the death of his 20-year-old son through witchcraft.

U.N. environment chief to assess China's flood devastation

BEIJING (AFP) — China conceded Saturday its worst floods in 50 years were partly due to massive deforestation and invited the U.N. environment chief to Beijing to assess the devastation as rivers kept rising and the risk of epidemics grew.

Klaus Topfer, head of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), was due in Beijing Monday to discuss China's disastrous flooding and possible intervention, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"After Topfer's visit, the UNEP will be in a better position to assess the situation and to advise on ways in which the U.N. system might be able to contribute assistance," UNEP officials told the agency.

China has been hit with more than 60 days of heavy flooding this year — triple the annual average of 20 days — and the current danger points are the industrial city of Harbin and the mid reaches of the Yangtze River.

Flood damage to local clinics and medical supplies has also raised fears of epidemics among displaced populations and prompted President Jiang Zemin to order concentrated efforts to ensure no major outbreaks of disease, the China Daily reported.

Although Beijing had previously laid blame for this year's disastrous flooding on changing weather patterns produced by La Niña, the official media conceded Saturday that over-use of

resources was the main issue. "The El Niño and La Niña phenomena are believed to be the main causes of the current flooding, but excessive exploitation of nature by human beings should be blamed first," Xinhua said.

It revealed that serious soil erosion had caused massive silt deposits in the Dongting lake — a crucial overflow for the Yangtze River — and cut the surface area of the lake by one-third.

The China Daily launched an attack on local authorities who permit over-logging, warning this had left hillsides barren and defenceless against heavy rains. "Soldiers and civilians are fighting to death to protect the dykes ... but rampant tree felling is

still continuing along the Yangtze River," the official newspaper said.

By midday (0400 GMT), water levels on the northeastern Songhua river had risen 0.83 metres above the historical high or 2.78 metres over the danger line in Harbin.

More than 400,000 soldiers and civilians were working around the clock to build up the city's embankments with sand bags, while frogmen from the Chinese navy were checking the condition of levees and embankments protecting the city, which is home to nine million inhabitants.

Municipal leaders meeting late Friday warned that water levels would not fall below the danger line of 118.1 metres for a month at

least, even without further rainfall, the Harbin Daily reported.

Upstream, in the major oil fields of Daqing, engineers were working round the clock to get 2,500 flooded wells back into production and officials said 1,443 remained affected. But they warned that two massive reservoirs near the oil fields, which produced half of China's crude oil last year, were precariously full and said a breach of either would be "disastrous."

Further south on the mighty Yangtze, the sixth flood peak was hurtling downstream, forcing the evacuation of 822,000 people in Anhui province and more than one million in Hunan as waters rose on the Dongting lake.

Heavy rain upriver was building into a seventh peak. "Torrential rains have, since Wednesday, deluged seven prefectures and cities in the northwestern areas of the Sichuan basin ... the flood waters from the five rivers are expected to flow into the Yangtze River in Chongqing around 05:00 Sunday (2200 GMT Saturday)," Xinhua said.

The water levels on all five rivers already exceed official warning lines," it added.

In an unprecedented move Friday, Chinese President Jiang Zemin delayed key state visits to Russia and Japan because of the "deteriorating" flood situation which he said was the worst since the Communists came to power in 1949.

At 8:22 a.m. local time, a total solar eclipse in the Pacific Ocean was seen for 2 minutes and 10 seconds, but the size of the sun disappears except for

INLA

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The Irish National Liberation Army, a small, anti-British group, announced Saturday it was withdrawing from the peace process, and a group for killing innocent people.

The outlawed group made an announcement before the people of Ireland and south alike, prepared to observe a minute of silence in memory of the people slain in last week's car bomb in Omagh. The attack was carried out by a team of British soldiers and a group of IRA members.

The INLA statement was one of a significant boost in confidence in Northern Ireland's search for peace.

The paramilitary group had admitted violent acts in June 25, when a car bomb destroyed part of the border town of Newtownhamilton, killing 11 people.

Indonesian graves

BUKIT SEUNTAN, Indonesia (AFP) — A mass grave containing the remains of at least 11 people was unearthed Saturday in this troubled province of Aceh.

Rescuers found some 200 people diggers under the cover of a four-man team from the National Commission on Human Rights, found the remains of at least 11 individuals in a parched field after digging for about two hours.

"Our conclusion is that more than 11 people were buried in the whole of the area, the number of people buried can reach in the hundreds," said the commission's general Baharduddin Lopa.

The team, Lopa said, had only dug up one of the some 20 mass graves believed to be in the area.

The diggers found 22 things, some of them were bones, and four skulls at a depth of some five metres.

They also found articles of clothing, cloth strips believed to have been used as blindfolds, and known rope used to tie their hands. Bone fragments were still stuck to some of the rope.

The excavation took place in an area surrounded by dry and neglected fields, some three kilometres from a disused oil pipeline.

Many of the onlookers had been from surrounding villages or had come on motorbikes from farther away. Lopa said the remains would be sent to the district police in

World News

water cannon drilling rig by reenpeace said. orwegian and a r-occupation of was leased by Saga Petroleum n Sea about 120 zht Greenpeace ne rig Thursday lies to switch to and remained on ng below the 1 statement that nets and protes- capsule onto the rs. "This was a less of spending e oil when we s as much as we ngerous climate c director Per id the rig was on where it had just e well Kristin is discoveries in s and is thought ls of oil equiva d secured before lecks.

is in Atlantic

Bonnie, the first region, was head- day, U.S. Acch- centre was ju d, had containe d John Gurney a Miami. Bonnie d to arrive in d of the Bonoma fringe effec "potential (turs) is possible; fect for the T- tern and even ch, is the only he Atlantic

droves val

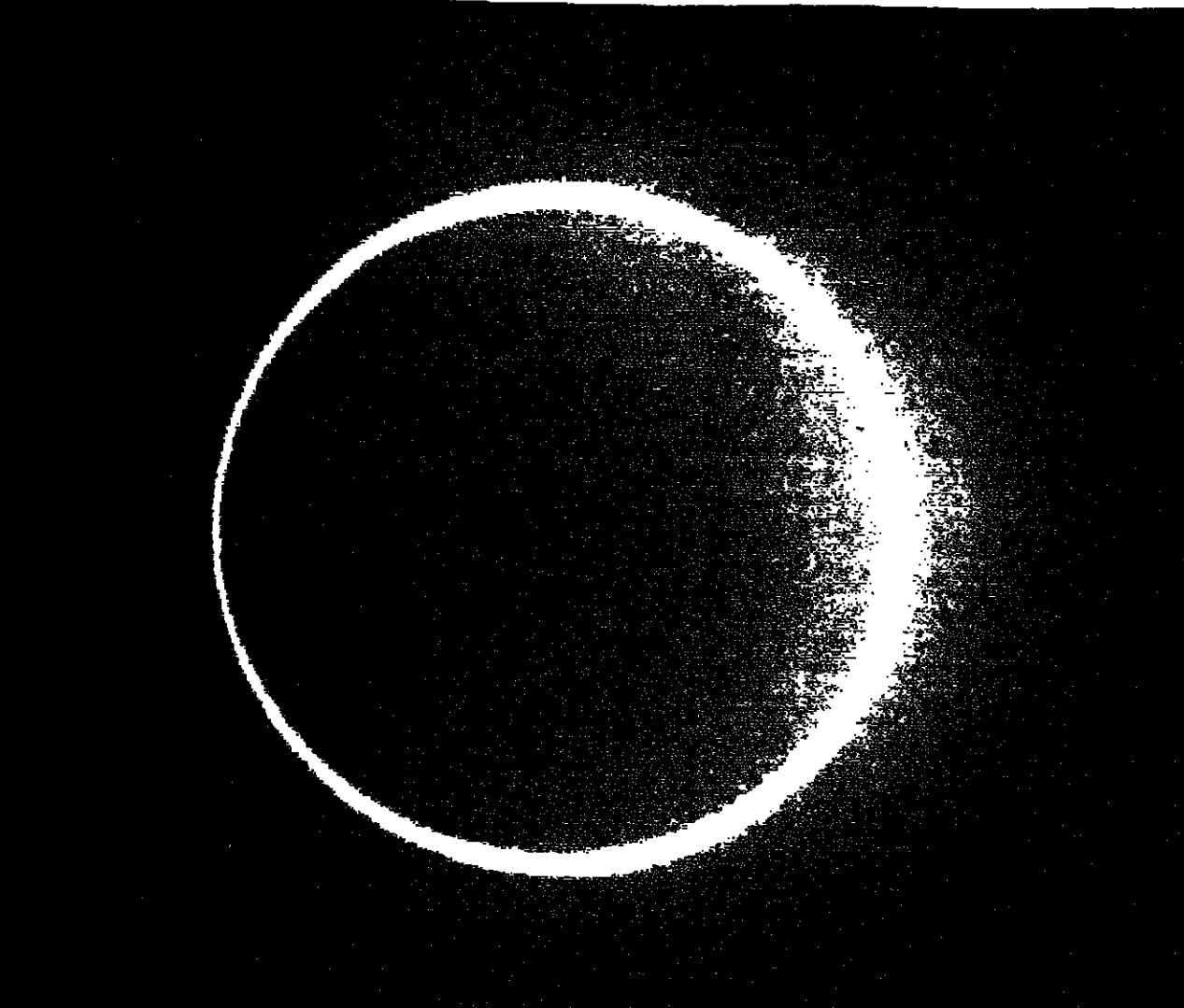
sands, the new- kyke, the day d skin, the o- sty, the the- crowd, the m- a diverse, s- its 1980s. The n last, the n- ng Karl, the g- f Brac, the g- were, the- started, the- r the, the- and than a d, the- d- unc- the- om Brac, and- are more, the- est with, the- ers have, the- amba, the- ad in, the- ng older, the- ad Brac, the- al mark, the- ation to the S- d

torowitz

anini Han, the- and wife of the- Manhattan, she- Friday, the- n. She was port- ldren. As a g- o her mother- concert, the- rowitz refused her- serve her husb- ears. A time- latest plan, of- al and died in- the difficult- d briefly in- at, stepped play- laughter, Sima- who recycle, accident- and no immediate- fall-

, herbal brew nya

people have die- in botle, alcohol- and a- ported Saturday, the- 3 people died and 10- ahlu area of Nakum- Narok district, after- The East Africa- "power alcohol" a- a methanol or pol- her people died at- ed villagers in the- al concoction, tell- n if they had not- inter had been fire- ighbours had caus- through witchcraft-



At 8:22 a.m. local time, light from the sun was blocked by the moon during a solar eclipse photographed on Sekakap Beach in Mersing, on the eastern coast of Peninsular Malaysia August 22. Billed as the final total eclipse in this century, the event lasted from 7:11 a.m. to 9:47 a.m. local time, and the full (annular) eclipse was seen for 2 minutes and 50 seconds. An annular eclipse occurs when the moon crosses exactly in front of the sun, but the size of the lunar disc is not large enough to completely cover the solar disc. As a result, most of the sun disappears except for a ring (Reuters photo)

INLA announces cease-fire

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The Irish National Liberation Army, a small but vicious anti-British gang opposed to the Belfast peace agreement, announced a cease-fire Saturday and apologized for killing innocent people. The outlawed group made its announcement hours before the people of Ireland, north and south alike, prepared to observe a minute's silence in memory of the 28 people slain in last weekend's car bomb in Omagh. That attack was carried out by different anti-British gang nicknamed "the Real IRA." The INLA statement will come as a significant boost to restoring confidence in Northern Ireland's search for peace. The paramilitary group's last admitted violent act was June 25, when a car bomb destroyed part of the border town of Newtownhamilton, wounding 11 people. The development follows the Irish Republican Army cease-fire of July 1997 and the announcement Wednesday by the Real IRA dissidents to observe their own "suspension" of attacks in British-ruled Northern Ireland. The INLA statement — announced at the west Belfast headquarters of its political representatives, the Irish Republican Socialist Party — means that only one anti-British group, the Continuity IRA, has yet to call a truce. "We acknowledge and admit faults and grievous errors in our prosecution of the war," the statement said. "Innocent people were killed and injured and at times our actions as a liberation army fell far short of what they should have been," it added. "... we as republicans, as socialists and as revolutionaries offer a sincere and heartfelt apology." The INLA has killed more

than 150 people since its foundation in 1975 during the IRA's first lengthy truce. Its goal, like the IRA's, was to abolish Northern Ireland as a Protestant-majority state linked with Britain. Its deadliest attack came in 1982 when it bombed a rural disco frequented by off-duty British troops, killing 11 soldiers and six Protestant women. The INLA frequently suffered from fratricidal in-fighting. Its former commander, Gino Gallagher, was assassinated in Belfast last year by comrades arguing about how to split the proceeds from drug-dealing and other criminal rackets. The leaders of Ireland's four largest Christian denominations — Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist — have called for Ireland's 5.2 million people to fall silent at 3:10 p.m. (1410GMT), exactly one week after a car bomb planted by the Real IRA killed 28 people and wounded more than 330 in the town 110 kms west of Belfast. Omagh itself was the focus of Saturday's "Acts of Prayerful Reflection." "We want to say with as loud a voice as possible that evil is not going to defeat us and that good will prevail," said a Presbyterian minister in Omagh, the Rev. Robert Herron. Ministers will lead ecumenical prayers in public places in at least 40 other towns across Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. "We must all go out in huge numbers if we can. It will be an important act of solidarity at this difficult time," said Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, who will visit patients in Omagh's Tyrone County Hospital after attending the ceremony. In a symbol of new life amid so much death, a 21-year-old Protestant woman,

Indonesian rights team find graves of military victims

BUKIT SEUNTANG, Indonesia (AFP) — An Indonesian human rights team Saturday unearthed the remains of at least 11 people believed to be victims of military atrocities in this troubled province of Aceh. Watched by some 200 people, diggers under the coordination of a four-man team from the National Commission on Human Rights, found the remains of at least 11 individuals in a parched field after digging for about two hours. "Our conclusion is that more than 11 people were buried here and in the whole of the area the number (of people buried) can reach in the hundred," said the commission secretary-general Baharuddin Lopa. The team, Lopa said, had only dug up one of the some eight mass graves believed to be in the area. The diggers found 22 thigh bones and four skulls at a depth of some five metres. They also found articles of clothing, cloth strips believed to have been used as blindfolds, and knotted rope used to bind their hands. Bone fragments were still stuck to some of the rope. The excavation took place in an area surrounded by dirt and neglected fields some three kilometres from a disused oil exploration trail. Many of the onlookers had walked from surrounding hamlets or had come on motorcycles from farther away. Lopa said the remains would be sent to the district police in

Lhokseumawe, the main town of the North Aceh district. "Digging will be allowed to continue here but the police should be present and all things found should be kept at the district police where it can only be taken out with the consent of the commission," Lopa said. Abdul Gani Nurdin, who heads the Aceh chapter of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, said: "This is proof that they (the mass graves) are not mere products of the imagination." Another human rights activist, Afizal Tjutra, who was also present at the dig, said: "What is important is that we did not work for nothing and, hopefully, the recommendation of the National Commission on Human Rights will lead to investigation and the trial of those guilty." Both Nurdin and Tjutra are from Forum, a network of 78 non-governmental organisations in Aceh which have been active pressing the case of military abuse and killings in the province over the past decade. Forum has said Bukit Seuntang was only one of nine areas they had identified as containing mass graves in Aceh. Jakarta sent combat troops to Aceh in the early 1990s to counter an upsurge of Islamic separatism activities there. Local rights groups charge the military was responsible for hundreds of deaths and abductions. Indonesian military chief General Wiranto early this month apologised for the

Rescue helicopters reach Indian landslide site

BAREILLY, India (R) — Two rescue helicopters weathered torrential rains in India's Himalayas Saturday to reach the site of a devastating landslide. Fresh rock falls and incessant monsoon rains hampered relief work in the remote mountainous area of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where as many as 239 people are feared to have died in landslides this week. The helicopters landed at Malapa, where 202 people — among them 60 pilgrims on their way to the holy Hindu lake of Mansarovar in Tibet — are missing and 31 bodies have been recovered so far. "Two helicopters have reached Malapa and dropped food packets, two doctors, medicines and chemicals to preserve bodies," said Sitaram Meena, district magistrate of Pithoragarh district. "Five people who were injured have been moved to Dharbula from Malapa," he said. He said two helicopters had taken 43 relatives of the victims to Pithoragarh from the army garrison town of Bareilly, where they had been waiting anxiously for news of their loved ones for days. Officials said arrangements were being made to bring back other pilgrim groups and their porters who were stranded because of Tuesday's calamity, but much depended on the weather. "The 10th batch of 40 pil-

Upper house speaker defends Yeltsin and PM

MOSCOW (R) — The speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament rallied behind President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko Saturday, dismissing calls for them to resign over the country's financial crisis. "I think it would be premature to remove the government," Yegor Stroyev told Interfax news agency, one day after the state Duma lower house criticised Kiriyenko and adopted a resolution urging Yeltsin to quit. "The difficulties and mistakes we are now suffering are the result of the irresponsible work of the previous government and errors regarding the GKO (treasury bill) market." Stroyev, 61, defended Yeltsin as he has done regularly since becoming upper house speaker more than two years ago and called for cooperation to take the place of confrontation. "We've had enough state coups," he said. "We must learn to reach constructive agreements." The opposition-dominated Duma slammed the four-

month-old government Friday at a special session on the crisis. It particularly attacked this week's de facto devaluation of the rouble and what many analysts said amounted to a debt default. The Federation Council, as the upper house is known, holds its own special session on the crisis next Friday. It is made up of regional leaders and so gives a chance for Russia's 89 regions to express their views of the economic problems. Russian newspapers said trust in Yeltsin was at a new low after months of crisis in which shares have sunk and treasury bill yields — the return investors demand for lending money to the government — soared. GKO debts are now to be restructured. "It is hard to imagine a more unpleasant political situation in Moscow for the president following yesterday's Duma session," said the liberal Nezavisimaya Gazeta. "The confrontation line between the president and parliament brings to mind the start of the autumn of 1993, but now the presi-

As sporadic skirmishes continue, Kosovo peace talks get slowly under way

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — As sporadic skirmishes continue in several hot-spots in war-torn Kosovo, peace talks aimed at settling the political future of the Serb province have got slowly underway, but with no tangible results. In recent days, the level of fighting in which more than 600 people have been killed since February, appears to have calmed down compared with a four-week long offensive by Serbs in which many Kosovo Liberation army (KLA) strongholds were recaptured. Kosovo Albanian and Serb sources have reported skirmishes in western, central and southern regions, but there were no details of any casualties. Aid workers have been able to travel more freely to different regions in Kosovo. But the humanitarian situation in the province, where an estimated 230,000 people have left their homes fleeing fighting between Belgrade government forces and ethnic Albanian rebels, seems gloomier than ever. The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said that around 170,000 people remained in Kosovo itself, hiding in forests and hills, fearing fresh fighting in their villages, most of them burnt down after in recent clashes. The majority of displaced people, who could not reach bigger villages or towns, were in western Kosovo, along the road between Djakovica and Decani, the area around

former rebel-stronghold Malisevo and the Drenica region of central Kosovo. The situation is exacerbated by the rough terrain, aid workers said. People have not been able to leave by major roads because of numerous checkpoints manned by police or KLA rebels. "Many of the displaced are inaccessible for our teams," warned deputy commissioner of the UNHCR, Soren-Jensen Petersen, who visited Kosovo Thursday. And Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova called Friday for a "no-fly zone" to be imposed over Kosovo and an immediate cessation of Serb offensive against ethnic Albanian separatists. "We are appealing for international protection for Kosovo, especially from the U.S., EU, U.N. and NATO and we urge for a no-fly zone to be imposed over Kosovo," Rugova told reporters in the capital Pristina Friday. Meanwhile diplomats were pushing forward indirect peace talks between Belgrade and Kosovo Albanian officials over the future of the province. U.S. envoy Christopher Hill, in charge of mediating between the two sides, said that the talks were underway through the international mediation. "We are aiming to accelerate the process. We are not disappointed at all," he said. "We had suitable discussions. We are going to renew those in days coming ahead." And the province's Serb governor Veljko

Myanmar dissidents start Bangkok hunger strike

BANGKOK (R) — A group of 26 Myanmar dissidents in Thailand said Saturday they had begun a hunger strike to press their country's military government to allow the convening of a democratic parliament and hand over power. "We have set no time-frame for the hunger strike, we will call it off only after the political sit-

uation in Burma (Myanmar) improves," said Zaw Wint, a spokesman for the group. The 26 were among about 100 Myanmar dissidents who have been camped in front of the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok since Aug. 3. Most of the dissidents have been in Thailand since fleeing a bloody crackdown on Myanmar's pro-democracy movement in 1988. Friday, Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy, led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, made its most defiant challenge to military rule by saying it would shortly call a "People's Parliament".

Jordan Times

An independent Arab national daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975
 جريدة الأردن الوطنية اليومية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors
 Abdel Salam Tarawneh

Vice Chairman & Director General
 Mohammad Amad

Executive Editor
 Abdullah Hasanat

Responsible Editor
 Elia Nasrallah

Editorial and Advertising offices
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: Editorial: 5696183, Advertising: 5693337

E-mail: jotimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: <http://www.access2arabia.com/jordantimes/>

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Wrong ways to express concern

THE NEWS of His Majesty King Hussein's illness revealed by the King himself raised strong responses inside Jordan and abroad. In many cases there were negative elements in some responses which would not be fair to dismiss out of hand as motivated by ill intentions towards Jordan. Most likely such misguided reactions were the natural result of lack of transparency on our behalf — government, people, and press. We thought the subject was taboo, or that addressing it and its consequences was not permissible or appropriate. Naturally this misconception created a vacuum which less-caring parties tried to fill. Our job was thus reduced to denying, condemning or showing dismay at certain misunderstandings that engulfed the situation.

The only exception regarding lack of transparency came from the King himself, who did not waste time before presenting his people with all the facts about his illness as soon as they became available. He also elaborated on the medical treatment prescribed by his doctors and the high chances of recovery. The King ruled out any confusion

regarding HRH Crown Prince Hassan his successor. The King thus reinforced his personal credibility in the eyes of his Jordanian people, the Arab Nation, and the whole world.

Even the strong assurances of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, upon his return from U.S., in his capacity as a physician, were not sufficient to calm the anxiety of Jordan's citizens about the condition of the King's health.

The legitimate right of Jordanians to accurate, complete, and up-to-date information about His Majesty's health should come from the King's own doctors at Mayo Clinic, or directly from the King or Prince Hassan, the Regent, who is in daily contact with the King, and would tell us the truth under all circumstances.

Although most concern was for the King's health, some people in Jordan expressed their concern by buying dollars and generating harmful rumours. Outside Jordan foreign magazines and other publications demonstrated their lack of understanding of Jordan as a constitutional state,

with sound institutions and an open and transparent political system. They could not comprehend that there could be no struggle for power or crisis of transition.

In 1951, when Jordan as an independent state was only five-years-old, King Abdullah who established the Kingdom from scratch was assassinated. Power passed smoothly to Crown Prince Talal. Year later, King Talal stepped down due to illness, and power passes smoothly to the young Crown Prince Hussein. If transition of power in Jordan was so smooth half a century ago, why should it be so problematic 50 years later if and when the King's life is threatened for any reason. As a matter of fact Prince Hassan was named Crown Prince in 1965 because King Hussein recognised his mortality and that he was leading a risky life in a risky region.

We, Jordanians, pray for the safe return of His Majesty the King, who in fact built a modern state not a sheikhdom, and developed civilian and military institutions that can absorb shocks and guarantee stability of governance under all circumstances.

Dr. Fahed Fanek

Wrong target

THE U.S. bombing of a Sudanese drug factory and a supposed Osama Ben Laden training camp in Afghanistan last week naturally drew criticism from several quarters including capitals that are strongly opposed to all forms of terrorism. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, observed in the wake of the two attacks, Jordan is certainly against terrorism whatever its source but would prefer to give verification, dialogue and diplomacy ample opportunity to combat it rather than resorting to arbitrary military retaliation.

In the case of Sudan, it so happened that the factory hit by U.S. cruise missiles was a pharmaceutical complex engaged in the production of medicines saving people from illness and sometimes death and veterinary drugs. The U.N. confirmed that much on Friday. Khartoum even challenged Washington to have the completely damaged complex examined by independent experts to determine its actual nature. Dubbed as perhaps the most important medicine factory not only in the Arab World but also in the whole of Africa, the destruction of the privately-owned complex is a major setback for Africa and the Arab countries in economic and medical terms.

Although it could be understood that Washington would wish to avenge the bombing of its embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam two weeks ago, it is difficult to comprehend the U.S. punitive actions against targets which are not associated with these attacks. The U.S. must not act as judge, jury and executioner. This is not the kind of new international order the world is going to accept and live with. We have always thought that the international community is obliged to resort to the U.N. Security Council for action against threats to security and sovereignty.

What is of concern also is the proposition that such precipitous U.S. reactions would set in motion a cycle of counterviolence. Osama Ben Laden is already on record as threatening to avenge the killing of scores of his followers. Sudan is also not alone in demanding redress and compensation for the destroyed pharmaceutical complex. The Clinton administration is called upon to set an acceptable example for dealing with terrorism. The recent bombing of the Sudanese medical complex is certainly the wrong example.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustur's Jihad Momani said he believes the U.S. missile strike on Khartoum to be religiously motivated. The strike proves that the U.S. is still the Muslim world's greatest enemy, said Momani. He argued that the U.S. had declared war on Sudan from the minute Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir's revolution had succeeded in establishing an Islamic government. The Americans had at once sided with the break-away southern Christians and animists, "but since their support has come to nothing, the U.S. decided to interfere directly," claimed the writer. He said none of these attacks had anything to do with Saudi billionaire Oussama Ben Laden, whom the U.S. believes is responsible for the Aug. 7 embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. Ben Laden had formerly been asked by the Sudanese government to leave the country in an effort to appease the Americans, said Momani. The Sudanese government, trying to avoid criticism, did not want to be seen as supporting terrorism. Equally, Khartoum had tried to launch talks with the Washington, but the Americans refused, added Momani. The writer said this is due to the Americans' unwillingness to accept any other country's independence, especially economic independence. Momani said he assumed the American administration was angered by the Sudanese plan to become completely self-reliant.

Al Ra'i's Sultan Hattab commented on Jordan's new government and the difficulties it faces and called on all Jordanians to stand behind the cabinet in its endeavours to overcome the crises left behind by its predecessor. "The government will need support to fulfil its mission, there is a long agenda awaiting it," said Hattab. This government seeks to increase transparency, it has promised to reexamine cases that are of vital concern to citizens and hopes to find some long-overdue answers to problems. We will have to see how easily such a thorough change of government policy can be adopted when the majority — 12 members — of the cabinet remained from the previous cabinet, Hattab said. People will be looking to it for strong leadership; it should launch an immediate reform programme to combat rising unemployment, work on improving education and health facilities in the Kingdom and first and foremost look into the growth-rate scandal and deal with the water crisis, added the writer.



The extraordinary week that was for Bill Clinton

By Marie Sanz
 Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton was back on vacation with his family Saturday after an extraordinary week doing battle on two fronts: the sex scandal that has dogged his presidency for seven months, and international terrorism half a world away.

Clinton seemed to hit bottom Monday, when in the most embarrassing moment of his presidency, he testified for more than five hours about his sex life before the grand jury of independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

That same evening, in a nationally televised address, he confessed to "a relationship that was not appropriate" with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

But far from turning the page on the affair, most analysts and even his own advisors judged the speech a failure because Clinton turned from contrition to defiance directed at Starr's probe.

On Tuesday the president and his family left for Martha's Vineyard, an upscale island resort off Massachusetts, but not before Clinton had privately spoken with his aides and congressional leaders in an effort to explain his conduct in the affair to them.

But many Democrats did not hesitate to express their own disappointment and anger publicly. Those facing reelection this fall are especially worried.

White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles has even offered to counsel staffers troubled by Clinton's "deceit" on the Lewinsky affair, according to the Wall Street Journal.

While the sex-and-perjury drama was unfolding, the president was thick in preparations for the missile strike against targets in Sudan and Afghanistan.

Before leaving Washington on Tuesday, the president was briefed by national security advisor Sandy Berger on preparations for the strikes which had been in the planning stage since the previous Friday.

On Wednesday, far from the TV cameras, Clinton celebrat-

ed his 52nd birthday among family and a small group of friends.

He continued to work the telephones, keeping up on the secret plans for the strikes in response to the August 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Berger spoke with several congressional leaders to warn them of the imminent attacks.

Meanwhile the Lewinsky affair continued to grab headlines. Independent prosecutor Starr summoned the former intern to his grand jury a second time.

On Thursday, at 3:00 a.m. (0700 GMT), Berger called the president to receive the green light for the missile strikes. At 1:30 p.m., the first cruise missiles were launched from American ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

Shortly afterwards, Clinton stepped out of his retreat to make a brief statement before startled reporters, then left for Washington to address the nation for the second time in four days.

Lewinsky's second grand jury appearance on Thursday, which lasted close to four hours, was suddenly swept off the front pages.

Daily television specials devoted to the seamy sex scandal and all its lurid details were hastily withdrawn, and replaced by special reports bearing titles like "America strikes back" and "Target: terror."

Friday, a poll showed that 80 percent of Americans approved of Clinton's move, and 64 percent believed he was motivated by the fight against terrorism, and not by the desire to divert attention from the Lewinsky scandal.

Most major American newspapers also support the U.S. attacks, though not without a measure of scepticism.

"In the surreal and cinematic atmosphere that suffused Washington all week," wrote the New York Times, some critics refused to believe the national interest was at stake, and accused Clinton of using cruise missiles to blast the Lewinsky affair off the radar screen.

Clinton's domestic concerns led to U.S. bombings

By Michael Jansen

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON chose domestic political considerations over U.S. interests in the wider world when he decided to mount cruise missile attacks against alleged "terrorist" targets in Afghanistan and Sudan.

Indeed, several of his congressional opponents promptly accused him of trying to divert the U.S. public from his sexual infidelities by launching strikes against an Afghan site said to be a base of "Islamic terrorists" commanded by Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden and a pharmaceutical factory in an industrial estate outside Khartoum.

U.S. European and Arab analysts all picked up this accusation.

But they do not go far enough. This is because the strikes on the Afghan and Sudanese targets were planned as early as August 14th, three days before Clinton testified to the grand jury about his illicit sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. After this he appealed to the good "American people" to understand his lapse with Lewinsky. But he was neither frank about his involvement with this unsuitable young woman nor apologetic to his constituents.

For, when Clinton worked out grand jury and popular damage limitation strategies with his lawyers last weekend he — and perhaps even they — knew he had the August 20th missile strikes in reserve. And these would transform him, once again, into a president who was defending the U.S. and the "free world" against "terrorism."

As a result he could afford incomplete testimony to the grand jury and a less than satisfactory explanation of the Lewinsky scandal to the "American people." Indeed, he could afford to lie, once again. Two flights of cruise missiles impacting on alien "terrorist targets" would mask the lie and re-confirm his presidential seat in the Oval Office.

When crafting this scenario Clinton counted on the fact that he could get away with cruise missile strikes on both Afghanistan and Sudan.

Cruise missiles are the ideal weapon for an American president who dares not endanger the lives and limbs of U.S. service personnel. Cruise missiles are satellite-guided pilotless planes packing

1,000 tonnes of explosives. "American boys" are not at risk when they are launching these missiles from ships hundreds of kilometres from their targets.

Furthermore, the slow-moving missiles themselves face little in the way of counter-measures from countries like Afghanistan and Sudan which are in no position to defend themselves against such attack. So, enough of the missiles can be expected to hit their targets to make it worth the monetary cost of launching these weapons. And, of course, proclaiming that is what is being done as it is happening — as Clinton did during a press conference at a school near his holiday home while the missile attacks were actually taking place on Thursday evening Afghan/Sudan time.

... the Western media has had a field day demonising Ben Laden, the Taleban rulers of Afghanistan and the military government of Sudan, so Clinton did not need to fear serious criticism of his choice of targets.

Also, the Western media has had a field day demonising Ben Laden, the Taleban rulers of Afghanistan and the military government of Sudan, so Clinton did not need to fear serious criticism of his choice of targets.

Ben Laden, the declared target of Clinton's wrath, was prosecuted, tried and convicted of "terrorism" without due process, but only one U.S. lawmaker, Senator Arlen Specter, a Republican, bothered to question this modus operandi. The rest simply assume Ben Laden is guilty as charged — even though the evidence — claimed to be considerable and uncontested — has not been made public. So Ben Laden has been found guilty on the basis of secret evidence and thus was bombed.

Clinton could also count on U.S.

public enthusiasm for dramatic military action. Rambo-like, to prevent his congressional detractors from criticising his decision to use force without previous consultation with the legislature. The first congressional opponent to jump onto the war-horse behind the president was Newt Gingrich, the majority leader in the House of Representatives, a traditional Clinton foe.

Of course, Clinton's tough action against Muslims delighted the U.S. Zionist lobby which had been uncertain of his intentions since he put forward his "13 per cent" proposal for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank in January. A proposal rejected by Israel. The missile strikes did a great deal to restore his credibility in the eyes of his Zionist allies.

However, the strikes will have a negative impact on U.S. relations with the Arab World and the worldwide Muslim Umma. For Clinton has launched missile strikes against Muslim targets on the basis of undisclosed evidence at the very moment he does nothing to punish Israel for scuttling the regional peace process by rejecting the president's own plan for withdrawal. The ugly old double standard once again comes to the fore in U.S.-Arab relations.

Clinton's missile strikes may enable him to recover his presidency in the short-run but could very well encourage Muslim militants to transform their occasional attacks against U.S. targets into a tit-for-tat war-of-attribution

Washington. Such warfare can only undermine the U.S. position in the Middle East and the Sub-Continent in the long-run. But when have the residents of the White House ever cared about long-term U.S. national interests? The actions of incumbent presidents and congressmen are defined by the U.S. electoral timetable, the costs of campaigning and the demands of contributors.

Why should a Lewinsky-plagued Clinton sacrifice short-term domestic popularity — which soared to over 80 per cent Friday — to serve the long-term interests of his country?

The writer is a Nicosia-based freelance journalist specialising in Middle East issues. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Letters

Moral degradation

To the editor:

THE CURRENT scandal rocking the Clinton regime is not about sex. It is about moral degradation of the American culture. Moral leadership begins at the top. Look at what we have at the top.

I don't care if America remains a great nation. I only care if America remains a moral nation true to the principles that the founders envisioned.

Jay Goode
 Plano, Texas
 U.S.A.

Prince Ha

democracy

Continued from page 1

We give absolute support to our Palestinian brothers and their efforts under the leadership of the PLO. We support the Palestinian National Authority to regain all its legitimate rights and to consolidate the Palestinian identity on the Palestinian national soil. We support the establishment of a Palestinian state. This is a sublime vision which should be directed towards the commitment to peace and agreements. We support you with all transparency and clarity this commitment aims at achieving full recognition of the Palestinian people as a national entity.

I would like to remind you who try to belittle our achievement — when sometimes called the Arab agreement — that the peace and the commitment for the state of Jordan. You might see or disagree in a democracy but I would like to employ the same of safeguarding the Arab identity is something of paramount importance.

Government

Continued from page 1

Washington alleged that Al Shifa plant was used by the Sudanese government to produce chemical gas, a charge denied by Khartoum. It said that the factory was turned to rubble as a result of producing medical equipment.

"Our call for dialogue was restricted to Sudan. This is the declared position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for many years. It is an unchanging position," said Hattab.

"On the one hand, we condemn terrorism in all its forms and whoever perpetrates it, and on the other we call for dia-

nd transparent poli-
end that there could
transition.
ndent state was only
no established the
ated. Power passed
ear later, King Talal
wer passed smoothly
if transition of power
ury ago, why should
and when the King's
matter of fact Prince
1965 because King
i that he was leading
return of His Majesty
modern state not a
and military instaura-
guarantee stability of

letters

Moral

egradation

the editor:

IE CURRENT
indal rocking the
inton regulars and
out sex. It's a shog-
ral degradation of
e American culture
Moral degradation
gins at which we
ok at what we see
the top.
don't see a
merica that's
eat nation. I
re it's a
main. It's a
ation that's
incomplete and
understandable

Jay Gould
Plano, Texas
U.S.A.

cerns

usiasm for a
a. Rambo's
essional duties
his decision to
vious. It's a
ture. The
ignition of
behind the
rich, the
use of
Clinton
e. Clinton
slims down
of his intent
of his intent
Israeli won
ed West Bank
ikes, did a
credibility
tallies.
n the strike
impact on
Arab World
lim United
ed missile
targets on
ed evidence
ne does not
scuttling
cess by re
an plan for
old double
nes to the

's missile strikes
to recover
short-run
surge Muslim
their
S. targets
on. Such
ne the U.S.
ast and the
ig-run. But
of the White
out long-term
's actions of
and congress-
by the U.S.
the costs of
demands of
ould a Lewis
sacrifice short-
larity — which
per cent Friday
term interests

er is a
journalist
last issues.
le to the

Features/News

Take a virtual tour of Paris

By Isabelle Tentrop

PARIS — Imagine secretly visiting the Louvre at night to admire Mona Lisa's smile without disturbance. On the Internet, it's no problem at all.

That's because on the World Wide Web, the world's largest museum is open twenty-four hours everyday. Of course, the Louvre's virtual gallery also includes plenty of other attractions including Leonardo da Vinci's most famous work.

But the Louvre, at <http://www.Louvre.fr>, is just one of many worthwhile stops in a virtual tour of Paris. Take, for instance, The Eiffel Tower. The city of light's most famous landmark has its very own Web site, at <http://www.tour-eiffel.fr>, offering a spectacular view from the top of the gigantic tower.

The Seine metropolis, too, is well worth a virtual journey, which could also serve to prepare you for an actual visit to Paris. Home pages of famous Parisian museums, stores, and other tourist sites are usually offered in English and French.

A good starting point for any trip to Paris is the "Paris Pages" Web site, at <http://www.paris.org>. The site offers links to the most famous tourist attractions, as well as photos of the Notre Dame cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, or the Paris Opera. Information about the history, the location, as well as opening hours and admission fees of such landmarks is also readily available here.

To find out what an elegant lady of the town wears while in Paris, take a virtual tour of the large fashion stores at the Boulevard Haussmann, including Printemps at <http://www.printemps.fr> and Galerie Lafayette at <http://www.glfaris.com>.

And the shops along the Champs-Elysees invite virtual visitors to window shop at <http://www.iway.fr/champs-elysees>. The low-budget chain Tati has also recently opened up shop on the Internet, offering special deals to visitors at <http://www.tati.fr> before.

The Web site is decked out against a background of blue and pink, the store's trademark colours. Tati, which is regarded as chic even among more affluent Parisians, also offers a catalogue of products available on the site.

Once you tire of sightseeing, the Web offers a banquet of Parisian evening delights, such as a dinner and show at the Folies Bergere nightclub (<http://www.foliesbergere.com>), with its pages decked out in a splash of red velvet.

What can you do at a Parisian nightclub on the Web? You can make reservations for dinner, choosing from a variety of dishes. Seats for the show can also be reserved online. Visitors who shy away from attending an actual show can use the Internet to glimpse the premises, replete with red plush seats and balconies with golden decorations.

For those with less racy tastes, the magazine Pariscopes, at <http://www.pariscopes.fr>, offers links to evening entertainment free of "red light" elements. Cinema, classical music, and theatre programmes are updated daily and presented in both French and English.

Arranged by district, Parisian restaurants with food from all over the world are listed. For the later hours, Pariscopes provides a list of discotheques, nightclubs, and karaoke hangouts.

And if you need a place to stay in Paris, some two thousand hotels offer information on accommodations at "The Paris Pages," at <http://www.paris.org/Hotels>.

Reservations for Eurodisney can be made at <http://disney.fr>, where Micky Mouse delights the virtual tourist with facts about the amusement park. Directions to Eurodisney, as well as tips about the metro and bus system, are offered at <http://www.ratp.fr>, the site of the Parisian transportation authority RATP.

Travel expert Francoise Forsans gets you away from the chaos of the typical Parisian tourist traps at the "Your Own Private Paris" Web site. Point your browser to <http://www.yopp.net> to get there. Forsans' site allows visitors to plan individual walks through Paris, tailored to their interests.

The many photos on this site will reveal hidden gems in Paris even to those who know the city well. "Your Own Private Paris" also illustrates well how many green spots there are in the city of lights, such as the gardens of museums or courtyards.

One of the site's virtual walks traces the paths of Romantic artists. It leads past the house of the composer Frederic Chopin, the writer Emile Zola and houses decorated by the artist Eugene Delacroix.

The Paris museums on the Net are a treasure trove for art lovers. The Musee d'Orsay, housed in a former train station (<http://www.musee-orsay.fr>) and the Centre Pompidou

(<http://www.cnac-gp.fr>) both have impressive sites on the Web. The latter site is of special worth, since the real-world version of the museum is closed for renovation until 2000.

And those who still aren't ready to call it a day can check in at the popular site hosted by the private television station Canal Plus (<http://www.cplus.fr>). Here, visitors can watch as virtual images of themselves wander along Paris boulevards, meet people in cafes or enjoy the view of the Eiffel Tower. The site registers over 200 new users everyday, a quarter of them being students. This site, like most others, is available in English as well as French.

— Deutsche Presse-Agentur

The screenshot shows the Folies Bergere website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Datei', 'Bearbeiten', 'Ansicht', 'Gehe', 'Lesezeichen', 'Optionen', 'Verzeichnis', 'Fenster', and 'Hilfe'. Below that, there's a search bar and a list of categories: 'Neuigkeiten', 'Interessantes', 'Ziele', 'Internet-Suche', 'Menschen', and 'Software'. The main content area features a large image of a performer on stage, with text overlays including 'LA FIEVRE DES ANNEES 80' and 'CALIFORNIA DREAM MEN'. There are also smaller images and text blocks, including 'RESERVEZ VOS PLACES!'.

One of the many services offering a virtual tour of the French capital (DPA photo)

Prince Hassan calls on nation to consolidate democracy through dialogue and transparency

(Continued from page 1)

We give absolute support to our Palestinian brothers and their efforts under the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority to regain all their legitimate rights and to consolidate the Palestinian identity on the Palestinian national soil and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is a sublime objective which all efforts should be directed to achieve.

As to commitment to peace and to agreements, I can tell you with all transparency and clarity this commitment aims at securing full recognition of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

I would like to remind those who try to belittle our achievement — what is sometimes called the Wadi Araba agreement — that this peace and the peace agreements are a commitment for the state of Jordan. You might agree or disagree in a democracy but I would say that employing the state's commitments for the sake of safeguarding the Arab identity is something of paramount importance.

Someone has asked me a few days ago why we are meeting with Israeli officials, and I would say that our meeting with these officials, especially when the meeting is within a plan agreed on with the Palestinian National Authority, is in conformity with Jordan's commitments.

I would like to say that introversion and isolation mean further sufferings for the Palestinian people and mean a return to the idea of the substitute homeland in Jordan.

This country has shouldered many sacrifices and we don't accept any body belittling Jordanian achievements and Jordanian sacrifices.

I reaffirm our commitment to strengthening Jordan's relations with the Arab states and Islamic countries. We should benefit from the opportunities available to us in the international agreements like the association agreement with the European Union (EU). The EU is a group from which we can benefit in developing our economy and our industry and we have to realise that our economy should grow faster than the population.

A few days ago I visited the Public Security Department and you might ask why. I say that development requires stability. We should closely follow up on matters connected with non-Jordanians living in Jordan. And we should have a data base providing information about the citizens living in the country.

We must have a strong competitive economy and we should emphasise that economic growth must have a beneficial effect on all sectors and we should concentrate on projects that can increase production.

I wonder if other Arab capitals, enjoy a greater climate of democracy. Responsibility requires full discipline which emanates from ourselves.

All parties should participate in shouldering responsibility. Either we enact legislation and apply it on ourselves or we adopt broad lines that we can develop over the years.

I hope we can have a national media centre and a press council which can deal with issues pertaining to this profession and shoulder the responsibility for promoting Jordan's image before the world.

I pray to God that King Hussein recover soon and I hope that we as a united family work together within a framework of integration, cooperation and coordination, respecting the rights and duties in the state of law and institutions.

I will remain beside you responding to your calls day and night.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifai and Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour delivered addresses at the meeting which was attended by Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's Private Secretary HRH Ali Ben Nayef, the King's Adviser for Tribal Affairs HRH Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and his Cabinet.

He said the committee's report showed the sources of the water pollution as well as parties responsible. He declined to elaborate further. The committee submitted its findings to former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali hours before he resigned late last Wednesday.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Friday inspected the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP) and said water pumped to Amman was fit for human consumption and was in line with Jordanian specifications and standards.

The water crisis climaxed on August 9 with the resignation of Haddadin who was immediately replaced by former Energy Minister Mohammad Hourani.

Haddadin enraged many people by responding to the water problem with a series of contradictory statements — initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

Bosnian Serb 'suspects' pay dearly for U.N. gaffe

By Louis-Marie Tattevin

PRIJEDOR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Two former Bosnian Serb police officers say they are paying dearly for having been mistakenly identified as suspects wanted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Nedeljko Timarac and Dragan Kondic, who live in this northwestern Bosnian city, say they were confused with two former Serb auxiliary policemen with names similar to theirs — Djelko Timarac and Milivoje Kondic.

In November 1996, they were included in a list of suspects issued by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in connection with the Serb-run Keraterm concentration camp during the 1992-95 war.

Speaking to AFP at a bar in Prijedor, both recalled how they were asked by their superiors to quit the police force and live in virtual seclusion. They added that they and their families have been "marked like criminals."

They pulled out press clippings and official papers to back their case and denied having anything to do with what went on in the nearby concentration camp where Muslims and Croats were beaten, tortured and killed.

"I never set foot in Keraterm," said Kondic, 33, who used to be a traffic policeman. "I went only once," added Timarac, 44, "with a judge and a pathologist to carry out a judicial identification."

The ICTY, based in The Hague, effectively acknowledged its mistake by removing the indictments against the two men in May. Their lawyer has also been told that their names have been struck from the tribunal's list of indictees.

But four months on, with no hope of getting compensation from the ICTY, Kondic and Timarac have yet to go back to their old jobs.

Mulki: Water report to go to prosecutor

(Continued from page 1)

go back to normal as soon as possible," Mulki added.

He said the committee's report showed the sources of the water pollution as well as parties responsible. He declined to elaborate further. The committee submitted its findings to former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali hours before he resigned late last Wednesday.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Friday inspected the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP) and said water pumped to Amman was fit for human consumption and was in line with Jordanian specifications and standards.

The water crisis climaxed on August 9 with the resignation of Haddadin who was immediately replaced by former Energy Minister Mohammad Hourani.

Haddadin enraged many people by responding to the water problem with a series of contradictory statements — initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

A number of reports that were leaked to the press claiming high concentration of algae and faecal coliforms in water sources increased popular worry.

— initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

A number of reports that were leaked to the press claiming high concentration of algae and faecal coliforms in water sources increased popular worry.

Bashir: We are ready to return double the blow

(Continued from page 1)

Washington. Sudanese newspapers reported Saturday that the Sudanese government has also decided to ban U.S. aircraft from Sudanese airspace.

Information Minister Ghazi Salah Eddine Atabani was quoted by papers here as saying that the cabinet had instructed the civil aviation authorities to take measures "in the next few days" barring U.S. planes from flying over Sudan.

The measure was being taken "for protection of Sudanese territories," he said.

One employee of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical company was killed and seven others injured in Thursday's raid, according to the company's legal advisor, Ghazi Suleiman.

An armed forces spokesman, General Abdul Rahman Siral Khetim, said that five U.S. planes "broke the sound barrier at low level at Berber," 460 kilometres north of Khartoum, and "flew over the Nile to Khartoum."

He said the planes fired "seven Tomahawk missiles — six hitting the target and the seventh missing it, completely destroying the factory." The spokesman said the raid lasted about 12 minutes after which the aircraft "turned back northwards."

The missile strikes were ordered in the wake of U.S. embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam on August 7 that left nearly 260 people dead, including 12 Americans.

Government urges U.S., Sudan to start dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

Washington alleged that Al Shifa plant was used by the Sudanese government to produce nerve gas, a charge denied by Khartoum which said that the factory turned to rubble was used for producing medicines.

"Our call for dialogue is not restricted to Sudan. This is the declared position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for many years. It is an unwavering position," Judeh said.

"On the one hand, we condemn terrorism in all its forms and whoever perpetrates it, and on the other we call for dialogue between people who may differ in opinion and orientation," the minister noted.

"We believe in dialogue as a means to resolving conflicts and crisis," the minister said following the six-hour long Cabinet session.

The newly-appointed minister indicated that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has discussed the bombing of the plant with the Sudanese Vice President Ali Othman Taha on Friday.

"What happened crystallises a situation that is worsening between the states as a result of the absence of a political and security dialogue among the countries," he added.

Judeh said that the government has also discussed with the Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Othman Ismail launching a dialogue with the U.S. to end the crisis.

Mulki: Water report to go to prosecutor

(Continued from page 1)

go back to normal as soon as possible," Mulki added.

He said the committee's report showed the sources of the water pollution as well as parties responsible. He declined to elaborate further. The committee submitted its findings to former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali hours before he resigned late last Wednesday.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Friday inspected the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP) and said water pumped to Amman was fit for human consumption and was in line with Jordanian specifications and standards.

The water crisis climaxed on August 9 with the resignation of Haddadin who was immediately replaced by former Energy Minister Mohammad Hourani.

Haddadin enraged many people by responding to the water problem with a series of contradictory statements — initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

A number of reports that were leaked to the press claiming high concentration of algae and faecal coliforms in water sources increased popular worry.

— initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

A number of reports that were leaked to the press claiming high concentration of algae and faecal coliforms in water sources increased popular worry.

Lebanon still finds comfort in gold reserves

BEIRUT (R) — While even gold producers like Australia have been dumping the precious metal from national reserves, Lebanon continues to sit on a treasure trove worth nearly \$3 billion.

"There have been talks over the last decade but they did not do anything because they wanted to provide the additional security for investors," said Marwan Barakat, head of research for Banque Audi. "They would have earned a significant return if they had used the gold," he said. "But there is a trade off between optimising the return on the gold reserves and securing a financial standing in hard currencies that provides security for investors."

For Lebanon, the 9,222,000 ounces of gold held for the country in U.S. vaults and the central bank are not just an abstract item in reports on the national reserves. The gold is the symbol of Lebanon's financial survival through a 15-year civil war that destroyed much else in the country.

Despite a battering that ended Lebanon's role as financial heart of the Middle East and impoverished much of the population, the tiny country squeezed between the Mediterranean and the Syrian desert never defaulted on a foreign loan. The policy of never selling gold — which the Lebanese central bank had maintained since its formation in 1947 — was made into a formal law by parliament in the mid 1980s, when the country was descending into the darkest days of the civil war.

"Under that law the bank cannot sell, lend or undertake any financial operations on our gold. So it is an asset that we hold on our books but which we cannot sell, lend or otherwise transact in any fashion," said a senior banker.

"I think it was much more important back then than it is today as a confidence factor. People's views have evolved, investors are becoming much more mature," he added.

Psychological factor

Some bankers would like at least an easing of the restrictions, allowing such things as the loaning of

gold that other central banks undertake to at least cover the costs of storing the unproductive metal.

"It's not an earning asset it is true. That is a matter of law so we can't have an independent policy," the banker said. "It just sits there and until there is a change in the law we cannot do anything."

Even a gold producer like Australia has moved away from the precious metal, which costs money to hold in a vault and does not produce even interest income. Canada, with a population nine times that of Lebanon, holds only \$144 million in gold in its foreign reserves. Barakat noted that the value of the gold, slipping anyway because of weak prices, was declining steadily as a percentage of total state obligations, which have been inflated by years of high budget deficits.

But no one is expecting a change in policy, which could come only by Lebanon's fractious parliament altering the 1980s law, an unlikely event when less controversial measures can take years of debate.

While other countries may be seeking more productive forms of reserves than gold bars in a vault, Lebanon is still trying to ensure economic stability eight years after the fighting stopped.

Economists believe the gold still provides at least a psychological guarantee behind government promises. By law, Lebanese pound notes in circulation must be backed by gold, which they are about seven times over. And foreign investors need to be reassured as well. Lebanon has raised \$1 billion on international capital markets this year — following earlier net borrowing of \$1.05 billion since the war — and hopes to raise at least another \$500 million in the second half of 1998.

Central bank sources say there has been no discussion of lifting the restrictions on state gold transactions and they do not expect any in the foreseeable future.

"It means that you have an asset there worth close to \$3 billion which has always been a source of confidence," said an official. "And I think that remains true."

Analysts see turning point for world oil glut

LONDON (R) — World oil markets may be at a turning point with a global glut beginning to subside, oil analysts said.

Oil prices ticked a little lower again last week but some market watchers said they saw signs that the worst of the supply overhang might be over.

Worries over the nine-year high surplus of stocks that has foiled producers efforts to revive the market still outweigh the early evidence that the overhang of crude might be starting to wane.

But London's Energy Market Consultants (EMC) has projected that while the overall inventory picture was likely to show little change over the next month or so the market's year-on-year surplus would ease significantly.

EMC said it saw July's 223 million barrel surplus of commercial oil stocks held by industrialised countries falling to 125 million barrels in October. Outright OECD industry stock levels were declining gently this year compared to a steady rise over the same period in 1997.

"Although a potential turning point the rate of price increase over the next few months is likely to be limited," said EMC in a report.

It said stocks when measured in terms of days of forward supply were set to come down to 61 days in October from 64 in July and compared to 60 days in October of last year.

"My impression is that we saw the price low last week," said a senior trader at major European oil company.

"The inventory picture is definitely looking better than just a month ago. There is light at the end of the tunnel," said an OPEC state oil company analyst.

And tanker monitors said a big seaboard inventory of crude heading to Western markets was now being drawn down.

"Oil in transit is heading south this month in a counter seasonal move which is rapidly closing the gap between this year and last," said consultancy Oil Movements.

Saudi Arabia's decision last week to cut its crude contract sales by 18 per cent, far more than its previous reductions, allayed some market scepticism that OPEC's 2.6 million barrel a day package of output cuts were being properly applied.

Foreign investment in Israel plummets

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign investment in Israel plunged in the first half of 1998, dealing a blow to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims that Israel's economy can flourish even if the peace process founders.

The Bank of Israel has reported that total foreign investment from January to July stood at \$1 billion, down from \$2.1 billion during the previous six months.

The drop was sharpest in direct investments by foreign firms in Israeli companies, which plummeted to \$285 million from 1,027 billion, the Bank of Israel said.

Share issues by Israeli firms on foreign stock markets, primarily in the United States, fell from \$747 million to \$183 million during the same period, it said.

The only bright spot was a sharp increase in foreigners' purchases of stocks on the Tel Aviv bourse from \$230 million to \$575 million.

The situation was a sharp turnaround from the trend in recent years which saw total foreign direct investment in Israel surge from \$330 million in 1994 to a record \$1.8 billion in 1997 — with much of the funds flowing into Israel's state-of-the-art high tech sector.

Gabi Fizman, a spokesman for the central bank, said it was too early to predict if the drop in foreign investment was continuing in the second semester.

He acknowledged that "political uncertainty and tensions" linked to the deadlock in the Mideast peace process "likely con-

tributed to the fall in foreign investment."

"The financial crisis in Asia also played a role by making investors far more cautious about betting on emerging markets," he told AFP.

The fall in foreign investment has coincided with a sharp slowdown in the Israeli economy and a rise in unemployment.

The most recent government figures forecast that economic growth will slip to 1.2 per cent this year, down from two per cent in 1997 and more than four per cent in 1996.

Unemployment in June hit 9.3 per cent of the active population, a five-year-high, and is forecast to pass 10 per cent by year's end, according to the Israeli Manufacturers' Association.

The bleak picture is a setback for Netanyahu, who came to office in June 1996 at the head of a right-wing nationalist coalition vowing to spur economic growth with radical free-market policies.

Netanyahu has repeatedly argued that booming foreign investment in Israel — notably in the high-tech sector — is proof that economic expansion can continue despite the vagaries of the peace process, which has ground to a halt under his hardline government.

"These investments are evidence that the business world is confident in the potential and stability of our economy," Netanyahu said several weeks ago, reaffirming his vision of Israel becoming the "silicon valley of the Middle East."

Asian crisis will slow German growth — DIW

BERLIN (AFP) — Growth of the German economy will slow next year to 2.1 per cent, the DIW institute has said while maintaining a forecast that the economy would grow by 2.6 per cent this year from 2.2 per cent in 1997.

The government and most economists hold that growth of the economy will be sustained next year despite the effects of the crisis in Asia. But the institute warned that next year growth would be weakened by "an inevitable decline of exports" owing to the crisis in Asia, and because domestic demand remained sluggish.

"The effects of the crisis in Asia, the collapse of markets and devaluation of the currencies of these countries resulting in an increase of competitiveness on third markets, will weigh down on German exports in 1999," the institute said.

The crisis in Asia had had little effect in Europe and the United States so far but problems in Japan had given it a new dimension because Japan played an enormous role in inter-Asian trade, the institute said.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NTD	SGD
US Dollar	-	1.7975	0.6109	1.6021	145.16	1.5490	1773.35	2.0285	0.0280
DE Mark	0.5583	-	0.3395	0.8355	80.74	0.8598	988.29	1.1273	0.3420
GB Sterling	1.6370	2.9433	-	2.4689	237.66	2.5308	2902.97	3.3174	0.9846
CH Franc	0.8657	1.1933	0.4063	-	96.61	1.0289	1180.19	134.87	4.0164
JP Yen	0.0069	1.2379	0.4205	1.0345	-	1.0647	12.21	139.67	4.1501
CA Dollar	0.6468	1.1749	0.4022	0.9689	1.06	-	1159.20	1.3247	0.3974
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0136	0.3443	0.8847	1223.09	0.8718	-	11.43	3.3880
NL Guilder	0.4935	0.8543	0.3012	0.7411	71.58	0.7827	574.86	-	2.5729
FR Franc	0.1859	0.2962	0.1013	0.2422	24.06	0.2585	33.62	33.6200	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7510	0.3770	3.6398	0.3074	3.6725	1619.00	3.4220
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2906	0.5317	5.1337	0.4335	5.1798	2142.45	4.8265
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0820	0.98	404.95	0.9123
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9501	-	9.68	0.8154	9.74	4029.39	8.0774
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1949	1.0306	1.0306	-	0.0845	1.01	417.33	0.9402
Kuwait Dinar	3.2591	2.3064	12.2023	1.2264	11.84	-	11.95	4841.44	0.9402
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0214	1.0208	0.9911	0.0837	-	413.51	0.9318
Lebanese/1000	0.66	0.4668	2.4684	0.2482	2.3962	0.2024	2.4177	-	2.2525
Egyptian	0.2922	0.2072	1.0961	0.1102	1.0635	0.0898	1.0732	443.89	-

Energy									
Oil	Last	Review							
Brent	0.00	0.00							
W. Texas	13.40	13.58							
Bonny	0.00	0.00							
Dubai	12.23	12.02							
UL Gas	138.00	136.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4783	0.16286	0.40089	38.7103				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4896	0.16634	0.40915	39.6396				
KW Dinar	3.2531	5.84795	1.98729	4.88789	472.367				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.76872	1.62048	3.98955	388.208				
CY Pound	1.8904	3.398	1.1541	2.8395	274.332				

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer							
Gold (oz's)	284.85	285.05							
Silver (oz's)	5.17	5.2							
Platinum (oz's)	358.3	370.3							
AL (3 Months)	1336	1340							
CU (3 Months)	1624	1628							
Zinc (3 Months)	1033	1038							
Lead (3 Months)	534	537							
Ni (3 Months)	4120	4140							

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	8533.85	-77.76	-0.9	8608.06	8328.2	8611.41		
New York	S&P 500	1081.18	-10.42	-0.95	1091.5	1054.92	1081.61		
London	FT-SE 100	5477	-190.4	-3.36	5664.9	5485.1	5687.4		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16298.2	-93.21	-0.61	16416.9	16226.6	16391.4		
Paris	CAC 40	3943.68	-143.81	-3.62	4067.82	3929.77	4087.49		
Frankfurt	DAX	6163.61	-324.71	-5.22	6476.76	6163.38	6488.22		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery							
Coffee (c/lb)	112.83	Spot							
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1923	Spot							
Sugar (\$/ton)	253.9	Spot							
Wheat (\$/ton)	101	Spot							
Soya (c/lb)	24.08	Spot							
Tee (\$/kg)	125	Spot							
Soy (\$/bbl)	0	Spot							
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1691	1.1699							
DE Mark	0.3934	0.3954							
CH Franc	0.4707	0.4731							
FR Franc	0.1174	0.118							
JP Yen	0.4891	0.4915							
NL Guilder	0.349	0.3507							
IT Lira	0.3988	0.4008							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

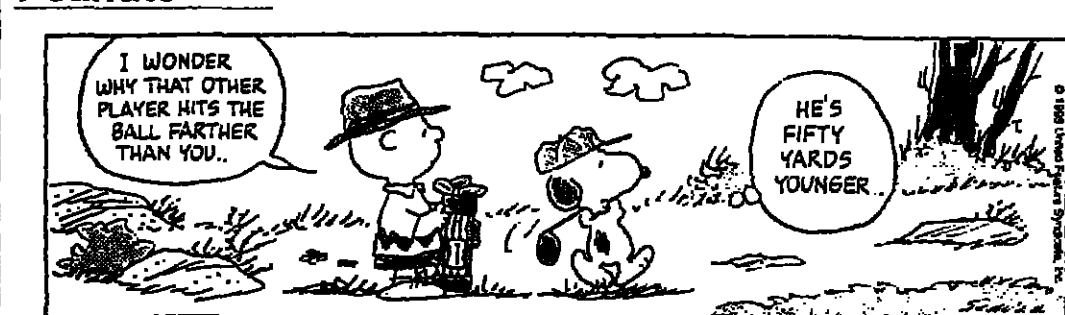
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Church
5 Ordinary
10 Health resorts
14 Secretary of State
15 Show shock, e.g.
16 Malt
17 Elation place
20 Affirmative
21 Musical piece
22 Hayseed
23 Car or machine
24 Adroit
26 Canaan
28 TV controller
31 Stocking flaw
32 Comic's bit
35 Old saw
36 Negligent
37 Yogi of the Yankees
39 Thither's partner
40 Show
41 Bicolor
42 February 2
45 Choices
48 Boanery sign
49 Discovered
50 Otherwise
51 By way of
54 Cataclysmic
56 Land measure
59 Of the ear
60 A single time
61 Poverty
62 Disorderly
63 Assam and dandelion

9 Summer Fr.
10 Chased off
11 Wielder
12 City in Provence
13 Edge along
14 Courteous
15 Ed or Keonan
16 Bad air
17 Constant change
18 Anderson or Fleming
19 Beseech
20 Change completely
21 Sultanate
22 Sketched
23 Crosscross
24 Square
25 Talented
26 Indiana city
27 Brock and Costello
28 Knitted shoe
29 Work units
30 voyage!

41 Shockingly
42 Trifling
43 Torment
44 River ends, often
45 Plover's end, often
46 Finish second
47 Haute, IN
48 Jug handles
49 Creeper
50 Early Prussian
51 Matures
52 Uncle
53 Coloration
54 Go bad

Peanuts



Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Amman Chamber of Industry presents proposals to curb unemployment and encourage training

ACCORDING TO a working paper submitted by the Amman Chamber of Industry, nearly \$240 million or JD180 million are transferred abroad each year by non-Jordanian labourers if it is assumed that their number in the Kingdom is around 200,000 workers and that each of them transfers to his/her home country \$100 a month. The Monthly Statistical Bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan estimated the total transfers by non-Jordanian workers in 1997 at JD142 million.

"It can be imagined how much such an amount would have a positive effect if it is spent in Jordan on activating the local market and, consequently, the production activity instead of being transferred abroad," the paper said in trying to examine possible means to ease the unemployment problem. The working paper indicated that the jobless problem in the Kingdom is both structural and behavioural unemployment which is estimated at 25 per cent or 150,000 persons of the workforce.

Among the solutions proposed to fight unemployment, the Chamber's working paper proposed the following:

1. Formulating comprehensive media programmes to launch out "the shame culture" and to consider any type of labour as "sacred work".
2. Formulating work programmes at schools where students should be accustomed from early year on vocational and manual work.
3. Engaging students in work at industrial, agricultural and other economic sectors during summer holidays and providing incentives to the institutions which accept to undertake such tasks.
4. Providing incentives to private sector institutions which offer training and have programmes to substitute non-Jordanian labourers with local workers.
5. Opening the work opportunities for young graduates and reconsidering the employment of retired personnel.
6. Giving priority to local products in government tenders even if there is a 15 per cent price difference between the imported and local products.
7. Creating incentives and forming a national charter between Jordanian companies to give a certain percentage of their purchases to local products. A price reduction of no less than 10 per cent should also be given to those who opt for local products.
8. Reconsidering the minimum wage issue to ensure the acceptance to work and the demand/supply flexibility.
9. Prolonging the years of exemption from the income tax to the institutions, such as hotels, which use 50 per cent or more of their needs from local products.
10. Opening new markets and horizons for marketing and exports as increasing exports by JD6,000 would create one job opportunity. In this regard, the working paper reveals that 150,000 industrial workers now generate JD1 billion worth of exports annually meaning that every worker's share of exports is JD6,600 a year. "The average local sales per employee is double the amount," the paper noted.
11. Providing additional financing for projects that employ graduates of vocational education centres.
12. Exempting sole proprietorships and small enterprises from taxes and fees for ten years from date of establishment.
13. Reconsidering education curriculum to enable university graduates accept any job available and agree to being trained on it.
14. Stop chasing unorganised street vendors and formulating the basis to organise their work (Al Dustour).

Jordanian pharmaceutical firms boost profits

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The pharmaceutical industry in the Kingdom has recorded a tangible increase in profits during the first six months of the current year compared to the same period of 1997, pharmaceutical industry sources and performance figures have indicated.

Al Sayid Ashouri, general manager of the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (APMC), said the increase in the industry's profits followed a plunge in exports to Arab market, especially Iraq, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the Arab North African states.

Ashouri pointed out that for the first time since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, APMC succeeded to penetrate the

Kuwaiti market which was closed for the Jordan-made medicines for the past seven years.

The APMC mid-year balance sheet showed that JD18 million in total sales have yielded a profit of JD4.4 million in the first half of this year compared to JD12 million that yielded JD3.2 million profit in the same period of the past year.

The company's total assets amounted to JD47.4 million down from JD47.9 million.

"The major reason for the increase in sales and profit was the new markets that were opened before our industry especially Kuwait, Lebanon, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates," Ashouri told the Jordan Times.

"The other reason for this increase is the new products

we managed to produce and market in the past few months," he added.

Foreign exports account for 70 per cent of the Kingdom's total pharmaceutical production while the rest is marketed in Jordan. The APMC official said. It is estimated that 14 companies are working in the pharmaceutical industry.

Among the firms that recorded higher profits is Dar Al Dawa which recorded a total sales of JD15.3 million in the first half of this year with profits amounting to JD3.3 million compared to JD9.6 million of net sales in the same period of 1997 and a total profit of JD2 million.

The firm's total assets amounted to JD32.9 million, compared to JD26.9 million in 1997, the company's balance sheet showed.

The Kingdom's eastern neighbour, Iraq, is among the major markets targeted by Jordanian pharmaceutical firms, which work hard to win a lion's share of Baghdad imports of medicine in line with the oil-for-food agreement which stipulates the export of \$5.2 million of oil in return of humanitarian purchases.

Recent government figures showed that Jordanian firms won contracts worth more than \$100 million in the past 18 months in line with the oil-for-food agreement.

Awni Bashir, general manager of the Arab Centre for Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals (ACPC) said profit in the first half of the current year were six-fold the amount recorded in the same period of 1997.

"The major reason for the

increase in our exports is the credibility our products in the Arab markets," Bashir told the Jordan Times.

The ACPC mid-year balance sheet indicated that the total sales in the first half of this year amounted to JD2.2 million with a profit of JD499,003 compared to JD1.1 million in the same period of 1997 which yielded a profit of JD88,900.

The total assets amounted to JD7.4 million in 1998 compared to JD7.3 million in the previous year.

Attempts to export Jordanian products to the Palestinian market did not succeed because of "technical reasons," mostly Israel's condition to obtain an approval from their side before allowing these products to cross into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's Sonol in talks with Mobil Oil

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Sonol Israel Ltd, an Israeli energy distribution company, is in talks with Mobil Oil Corp about possible cooperation, Sonol's parent, Granite Hacarmel Investments Ltd, has said.

"Mobil Oil Corp, one of the largest energy companies in the world, is currently looking for ways to expand its business and is exploring all new directions," Granite said in a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"Sonol and Mobil have been holding discussions on various options for cooperation. These discussions have not yet reached the stage of specifics."

A spokeswoman for Granite said she could not add any further details to the brief announcement and that she did not expect any further announcements in the near future.

She would not comment on reports that a delegation of Mobil representatives was currently in Israel.

Sonol operates or franchises more than 180 filling stations around Israel, ranking it third among Israel's energy product distributors. The company does not release financial figures. Last month control of Granite was sold to Israel's Borovitz-Mozes Investments and Netherlands-based Glencore International AG.

There is virtually no presence of overseas petroleum companies in the Israeli energy market.

Saudi Arabia to pay farmers \$800 million in arrears soon

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian plans to start paying three billion riyals (\$800 million) in arrears to farmers later this month, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) has reported.

SPA quoted Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim Al Assaf as saying the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) would make the payments through its offices across the Kingdom starting at the end of August.

The payments represent the redemption of the last tranche in a nine billion riyal special payment certificates which had been issued to Saudi farmers early in 1996. The first two payments — each worth three billion riyals — were paid in August 1996 and August 1997.

Saudi Arabia has been trying to catch up on huge arrears owed to more than 30,000 farmers which built up after the 1991 Gulf war and caused painful cash crunches.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The sun is going from the zodiac sign of your love life to the area pertaining to work. This doesn't have to be a tragedy. If your romantic relationship is stable and you've made your commitment, you might even do this together, which is quite romantic.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) The sun is in Virgo, and that's good. Virgo enhances your natural cuddly qualities. If you go through your fifth house of love, romance and friendship — dear, sweet, forever friendships, not the shallow, insignificant kind. Besides that, Mercury is going direct today, so it'll be easier to communicate. Have a celebration.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Mercury, your ruling planet, is going direct. During the last few weeks it was retrograde, so there was confusion concerning communications. You were doing well anyway, but that was a hump. Sometimes you had to explain things a few times before they got through. You'll notice it's much easier now, not only to teach, but to learn.

CANCER (June 22 to July 21) You're sharp as a tack today and getting even sharper. The sun and moon are in Virgo, in your solar third house of education. Even better, Mercury, representing communications, is going direct. It's been retrograde for weeks. Suddenly things are going to be easier. Your travels are nearing an end.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You've been going through a very creative phase and beginning new ventures. Now, you'll need to figure out how to pay for them. You wish someone else would handle it for you, but that's not the course of action. Figure out how much you have and how much you owe. Don't delegate this responsibility.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) This is the best time of year for you. Not only do you get a birthday, but you also have an advantage the whole time the sun's in your sign. The moon's there today, too, making things even more favourable. You are confident and persuasive as well as cute and cuddly. Do something to celebrate today.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) For the last 30 days, so, conditions have favoured friendships and group activities and that's been fun. Now it's time to get back to work. If you start feeling like you ought to do this and you ought to do that, now you know why. You've had your vacation, start making lists and checking things off again.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) All sorts of complications have been showing up in the area of your career. You've overcome barriers, had additional confusion, mistakes, and dealt with all sorts of problems. Well, all of that's done and you've gotten past it. You're on to the fun part! Celebrate!


SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You naturally see the big picture, without much interest in the details. In order to advance, however, you'll have to keep track of that stuff. You might not have to do much of that today, but get prepared. If nothing else, get yourself a watch and a calendar. You'll have to know what time it is, and what day, too.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You just won't be able to stay at home. You'll have to get out and go somewhere, even if you're not sure where. That doesn't matter. You can make it up as you go, especially with the right people. You'll have a fabulous time and odds are good you'll learn a lot, too!

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) For the next month your focus will shift to finances, especially money you share. This includes taxes and legacies, insurance programmes, investments and even your joint checking account. If this sounds scary, don't worry. You'll get through it, just like you do every year about this time. Prepare to get everything in order. It'll be a relief.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) The sun's going into Virgo today, thank heavens. You'll notice a change in the difficulty of things. Somebody wants to help, and that's fabulous. Think of a person you've sometimes distrusted in the past. You might want to try that. Right now, you need the assistance. Be open and accept it.

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIYAH TELEPHONE: 667171 / 667179 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/08/1998												
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH LOW		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE SHARES TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
INSURANCE SECTOR												
385.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.8	0.87	10	320	73560	226.00	230.00	4.00+		
2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.22	15	4523	7495	1.66	1.66	-		
2.130	1.130	BANK OF JORDAN	9	0.00	10	3220	3623	1.14	1.12	-0.02-		
6.510	2.610	THE SURETY BLD.	19.7	3.22	45	30785	9324.58	3.10	3.11	0.01+		
3.450	1.750	JOR. KOWATY BANK	8.8	0.00	3	214	391	1.85	1.82	-0.03-		
870	580	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	2	200	120	.60	.60	-		
4.900	1.500	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.1	0.00	5	850	1503	1.78	1.77	-0.01-		
3.600	1.350	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	23.7	3.85	7	1506	264	1.64	1.70	0.06+		
930	.770	PELLANDE, INV. BK.	7	0.00	1	1000	730	.77	.73	-0.04-		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 301.82 ICBS: +1.37 99 314498 1022823												
2.350	2.250	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	23.4	3.74	2	560	1198	2.25	2.14	-0.11-		
2.850	1.600	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.4	5.80	2	1500	2090	1.45	1.38	-0.07-		
2.350	1.740	JOR. FIRE & MAR.	7.7	0.00	6	4718	3672	2.78	2.78	-		
2.350	1.800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.3	0.00	2	1250	3007	1.90	1.94	0.04+		
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 126.85 ICBS: -0.67 10 4710 9334												
2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.9	5.39	11	5961	9120	1.53	1.53	-		
4.030	1.650	ISRAID ELECTRICITY	16.6	3.72	7	850	2277	2.86	2.69	-0.13-		
1.500	1.880	BKTL. PORTFOLIO	34.3	0.00	11	4785	4158	.88	.86	-0.02-		
1.120	.740	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.7	0.00	2	174	130	.76	.75	-0.01-		
1.480	1.060	MID. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	7	3595	3958	1.10	1.10	-		
4.600	1.880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9	2.00	4	6576	13152	2.00	2.00	-		
1.070	.890	SARSA SUSTAIN	20.8	0.00	4	1500	1710	.90	.90	-		
1.930	1.190	UNITED CO.	5.2	9.40	3	650	761	1.19	1.17	-0.02-		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.66 ICBS: -0.13 51 24456 35263												
3.970	1.840	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	11.9	5.47	13	102621	205271	2.01	2.01	-		
4.110	1.650	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	16.9	0.00	3	4100	6710	1.65	1.60	-0.05-		
1.400	1.750	ARAB POTASH INC.	7.4	4.00	3	11700	87073	4.80	4.75	-0.05-		
11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.4	8.31	10	898	8958	10.70	10.40	-0.30-		
1.570	1.100	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	11.7	6.80	2	150	160	1.08	1.05	-0.03-		
1.060	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	67.9	0.00	5	800	921	1.16	1.15	-0.01-		
1.740	2.400	ARAB FRANK. MFG.	7.7	4.70	23	2333	65313	2.78	2.78	-		
5.900	1.120	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	4.9	8.85	10	4200	4746	1.12	1.13	0.01+		
2.940	2.480	JORDAN DAIRY	9.5	10.48	1	3000	7950	2.75	2.65	-0.10-		
1.440	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	9.2	9.01	5	5450	6045	1.11	1.11	-		
8.840	5.850	ARAB CHEM. INDUS.	7.6	0.00	14	10300	13700	7.00	6.85	-0.15-		
1.420	600	KAFIA INDUSTRIES	6.5	0.00	10	5931	5931	.60	.57	-0.03-		
6.350	4.700	DAR ALBAHA DV. INV.	7.0	6.03	7	2486	14453	5.85	5.80	-0.05-		
1.730	1.730	ARAB ALUM. IND.	13.3	13.89	10	4325	7789	1.80	1.80	-		
8.980	4.400	LIVERMORE & POLSKY	13.5	0.00	13	18250	7339	.41	.40	-0.01-		
870	.610	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	2	450	180	.41	.40	-0.01-		
890	340	INTERNED. PERSO. CHEM.	2	1250	2	1250	423	.34	.34	-		
890	400	JOR. MOCHROME CHEM.	9	0.00	2	70	70	.40	.39	-0.01-		
1.760	.760	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	8.9	9.88	2	1000	801	.79	.81	0.02+		
.730	.390	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	7.8	0.00	22	32500	13003	.40	.41	0.01+		
1.670	1.150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.2	4.65	4	600	773	1.30	1.29	-0.01-		
1.320	.390	TAJMAH INDUSTRIES	5.5	10.00	5	550	53	.39	.38	-0.01-		
1.300	.640	UNIV. MOON. INDUS.	9.7	9.84	30	34000	21081	.64	.61	-0.03-		
.940	.500	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	2	1900	2	1900	997	.52	.53	0.01+		
1.200	1.200	BKTL. CHELCHER	8.6	9.13	1	6000	7380	1.24	1.23	-0.01-		
1.080	.650	UNION. NEW CAN. CO.	8.0	15.00	15	16200	10124	.66	.64	-0.02-		
1.618	1.150	EL - SAY READY WEAR	40.8	0.00	1	500	580	1.16	1.16	-		
1.310	.960	INTL. TOBACCO	6.6	6.21	4	5834	5487	.96	.94	-0.02-		
1.320	.860	UNION CH. & WBS.	8.6	0.00	7	1200	1057	.88	.89	0.01+		
890	.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.3	4.33	12	4624	4633	.82	.81	-0.01-		
.670	.550	MID. EAST CHEM.	10.0	0.00	10	31950	17283	.55	.55	-		
1.100	.770	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	52.1	0.00	3	3585	3405	.95	.95	-		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 86.84 ICBS: -0.79 260 342838 504227												
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 183.78 ICBS: +0.74 420 689502 1571648												
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/08/1998												
1.050	.880	EXPORT & FIN. BKG. JSA	16.8	0.00	5	8750	5775	.91	.91	-		
.820	.240	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	25	158250	37964	.24	.24	-		
.430	.240	ARAB INTL. INV. IND.	28.8	0.00	4	3900	1073	.25	.25	-		
.230	.230	BKTL. TEXTILE	P	0.00	5	7990	957	.24	.24	-		
.300	.580	JOINT-VENT. BKG. MANCO	10.0	0.00	2	2000	32	.58	.58	-		
.690	.580	MIDWEST PEARM. 90%	E	0.00	1	500	250	.60	.60	-		
1.570	1.000	UNION TOBACCO ST. 5%	10.3	7.72	1	600	75	1.62	1.62	-		
.570	.730	BAIT PHARM.	9	0.00	1	600	348	.88	.88	-		
.320	.700	INDS. INC.	9	0.00	7	14520	2326	.20	.21	0.01+		
.340	.210	I. TEXTILE MANUF.	9	0.00	1	1000	200	.21	.20	-0.01-		
.960	.540	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	9	0.00	7	1256	678	.54	.54	-		
.503	.430	PEARL BAK. P. CONT.	E	0.00	1	300	39	.43	.43	-		
.700	.430	BKTL. POLYESTER	9	0.00	7	10564	5438	.51	.51	-		
.980	.170	OPTICALS BEARING CO.	7	0.00	2	300	104	.35	.34	-0.01-		
.580	.580	BAV. ALUMINIUM	32.7	0.00	2	600	1883	.55	.55	-		
1.310	.770	NUTRICIAN	P	0.00	2	6000	5100	.86	.85	-0.01-		
GRAND TOTAL NO 219289 64520												

European Athletics Championships Marathon turns into an Italian job

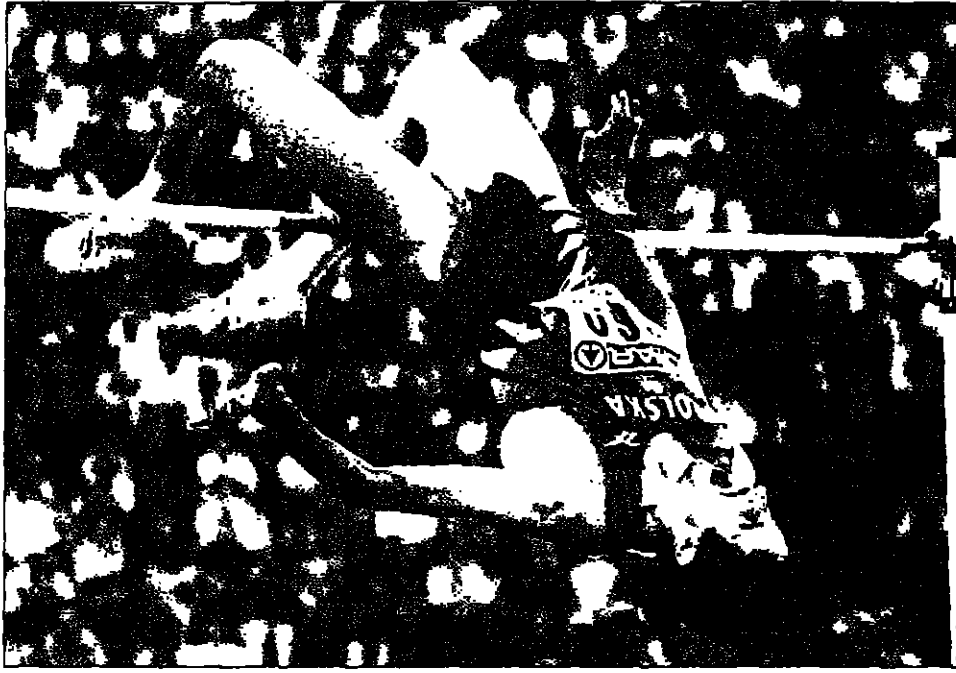
BUDAPEST (AFP) — Stefano Baldini led home an Italian cleansweep in the men's marathon here at the European championships on Saturday and said his coach had seen in his eyes before the race that he would take gold.

The 27-year-old, who took the world half marathon title in 1996, punched the air in delight as he came home clear of Danilo Goffi and Vincenzo Modica.

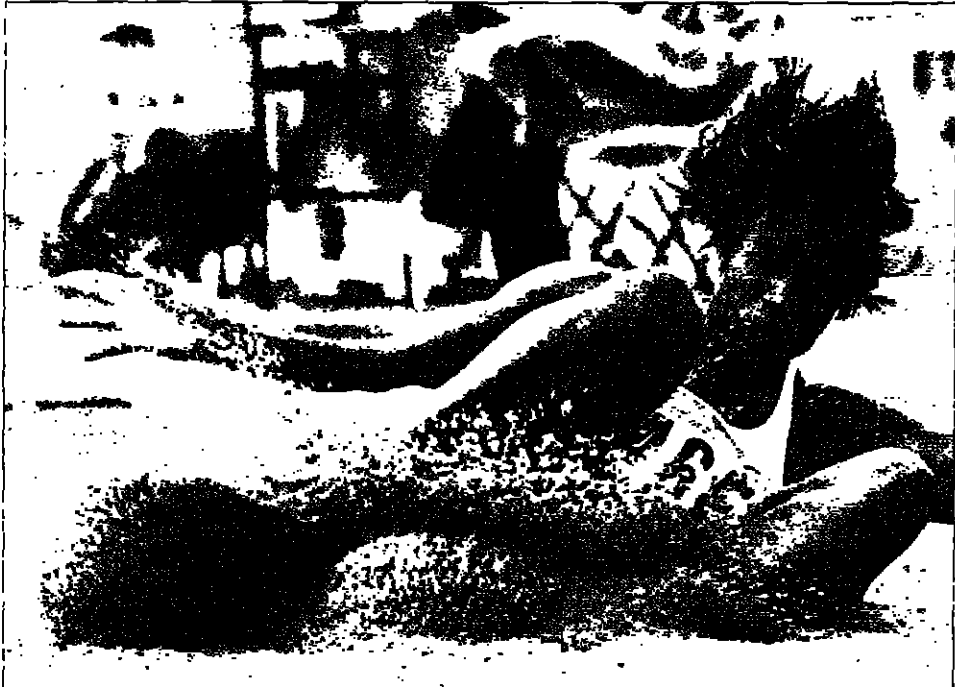
The Italians had double cause for celebration as they won the tactical battle with their bitter rivals the Spaniards, who filled the next three places.

"It's beautiful! I've won in Rome and the half marathon title but this is the big one," he said.

"Before the race Luciano Gigliotti (his coach) said he could see in my eyes that I was going to win, my heart



Artur Partyka of Poland clears the bar on the way to winning the gold medal in the Men's high jump at the European Track and Field Championships at the Nép Stadium in Budapest (AP photo)



Britain's Denise Lewis lands after an attempt in the long jump discipline of the Heptathlon at the European Track and Field Championships at the Nép Stadium in Budapest (AP photo)

also told me that this was going to be my day as well. "We ran as a team and our pre-planned strategy worked out to perfection, although I was surprised that the Spanish did not put up such a strong challenge," he added.

Baldini, who finished second in the London marathon

and third in New York last year, made his winning surge with about a kilometre to go breaking away from Goffi.

The duo along with Modica had broken the spirits of the Spanish athletes Jose Ramon Rey and Alejandro Gomez after 35 kilometres when they upped

a gear leaving them trailing while Modica also found their pace too much.

The Spaniards had been the only runners capable of staying with them when the Italians broke from the leading pack of 20 shortly after 30 kilometres, which was surprising as the weather was ideal for marathon runners being cool and wet.

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's triple jump world record holder, needed just one jump to qualify for Sunday's final although he had to take it twice after he clipped the long jump launching board which runs alongside the triple jump run-up and then said that he was concerned about his right ankle.

"I felt something in my ankle during the warm-up so to make the qualifying mark in the first attempt was a relief," said Edwards, who finished fourth on his only previous appearance in the Europeans four years ago.

Edwards, who won in Zurich 10 days ago despite struggling with ankle and heel injuries, had to be satisfied with the second spot in qualifying as his main rival Alexander Glavatskiy of Belarus posted the leading standard of 17.10 metres.

However, Glavatskiy, who finished second behind Edwards in Zurich, had to survive an appeal by Spanish jumper Raul Chapado, who claimed that he had been allowed four jumps instead of the permitted three — the jury decided that the result should stand as the blanking board was unstable.

Schmeichel blasts Laudrup over quit decision

LONDON (AFP) — Denmark goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel on Friday launched a scathing attack on compatriot Brian Laudrup for quitting international football.

Laudrup, 29, who joined English Premiership club Chelsea from Rangers this summer, decided to retire from the international scene after Denmark's World Cup quarter-final defeat by Brazil in France last month.

But Manchester United ace Schmeichel said Laudrup's absence has blown a hole in Denmark's plans for the future — especially as his older brother Michael quit at the same time.

He said: "In many ways, it was very bad timing for him to stop right now because the new Danish team, without his brother Michael, needed his experience. "How can Brian say that he is tired of playing for the national team? Look at me, I'm nearly 35 years old and I will continue until the day when I can't get out of bed any more."

"I'm disappointed about his sudden goodbye to the national team because personally I can't see any reason to stop playing for the national team at only 29 years old," he told Danish newspapers.

Laudrup insists that he has had enough of international football after making his debut for his country as a teenager and now wants to dedicate his energies to his new club and his family.

But his retirement has left a gaping hole in his national team's plans, given that his elder brother Michael has also stopped playing for his country following the World Cup.

Schmeichel said: "I can't see how only five or six internationals a year can be too much for Brian so that he feels that he has had enough of playing international football."

Pippen: Jordan and I unlikely to return to Bulls

CHICAGO (AFP) — Scottie Pippen, attending a baseball game as he recovers from back surgery, told broadcasters WGN here Friday that he doubts either he or Michael Jordan will return to the Chicago Bulls.

Pippen and Jordan have guided the Bulls to six National Basketball Association titles in the past eight years. But Jordan is considering retirement and free agent Pippen seeks more money from another club.

"I do not foresee a return to the Chicago Bulls because with each passing day it becomes more evident that I'll be going somewhere else," Pippen said. "The fans are great and I know they want everyone back."

But as players, we believe it's over. Pippen is a seven-time All-Star who has teamed with Jordan to lead Chicago to three consecutive NBA championships and make the Bulls the most powerful dynasty in sports.

But Phil Jackson



Michael Jordan goes up for a layup



Scottie Pippen, No. 33, attempts a slam dunk

resigned as coach in June and former Iowa State coach Tim Floyd was hired as his replacement. Jordan often has said he would not play for any coach other than Jackson and repeated that in a recent conversation with Pippen.

"I believe Michael will not play again. I think he's done," said Pippen. "He will not play for anyone other than Phil Jackson."

Pippen, 32, will be available to the highest bidder once the NBA owner-union fight is settled. He has long felt his salary was less than his value, especially last year's \$2.77 million deal.

Pippen is believed to be seeking a multi-year deal worth \$10 to \$15 million a season and has expressed a desire to play for the Phoenix Suns or Los Angeles Lakers. His back is well along in recovery. "I'm recovering very well from my back surgery," Pippen said. "I've already begun light rehab and I feel great."

Hingis into Canadian Open semis

MONTREAL (AP) — While the fans had their eyes fixed on the new generation of women tennis players Friday, veteran Jana Novotna moved into the semifinals of the du Maurier Open.

Novotna, 29, won her 19th consecutive match, beating 19-year-old upstart Magui Serna of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 to move within two victories of a fourth straight tournament title on the WTA Tour.

"As always, everybody else is getting all the attention and I am quietly progressing in the tournament," said Novotna, a lanky right-hander from the Czech Republic. "That's the way I like it."

The crowd poured into court No. 1 to watch teenager Anna Kournikova of Russia lose a rain-delayed third-round match to Spain's Conchita Martinez 6-0, 6-3, while Novotna was finishing off Serna on Centre Court.

Martinez later lost 6-3, 6-4 to third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to set up a Sanchez Vicario-Novotna semifinal.

Top-seeded Martina



Anke Huber of Germany returns to Monica Seles, of Sarasota, Fla., at the du Maurier Open in Montreal. Seles beat Huber 6-3, 6-4 to move on to the semi-finals (AP photo)

Hingis of Switzerland reached the semifinals with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-4 victory over Sandrine Testud of France. Hingis will face fifth-seeded Monica Seles.

Seles, seeking her record fourth consecutive

Canadian title, beat Germany's Anke Huber 6-3, 6-4.

Novotna returned to action this week from a four-week break after winning at Eastbourne, Wimbledon her first Grand

Slamtitle) and Prague — the longest winning run on the tour this year.

She has hardly looked rusty, even though Serna, a left-hander ranked 26th in the world who was coming off an upset of two-time

champion Steffi Graf of Germany, gave Novotna fits for one set.

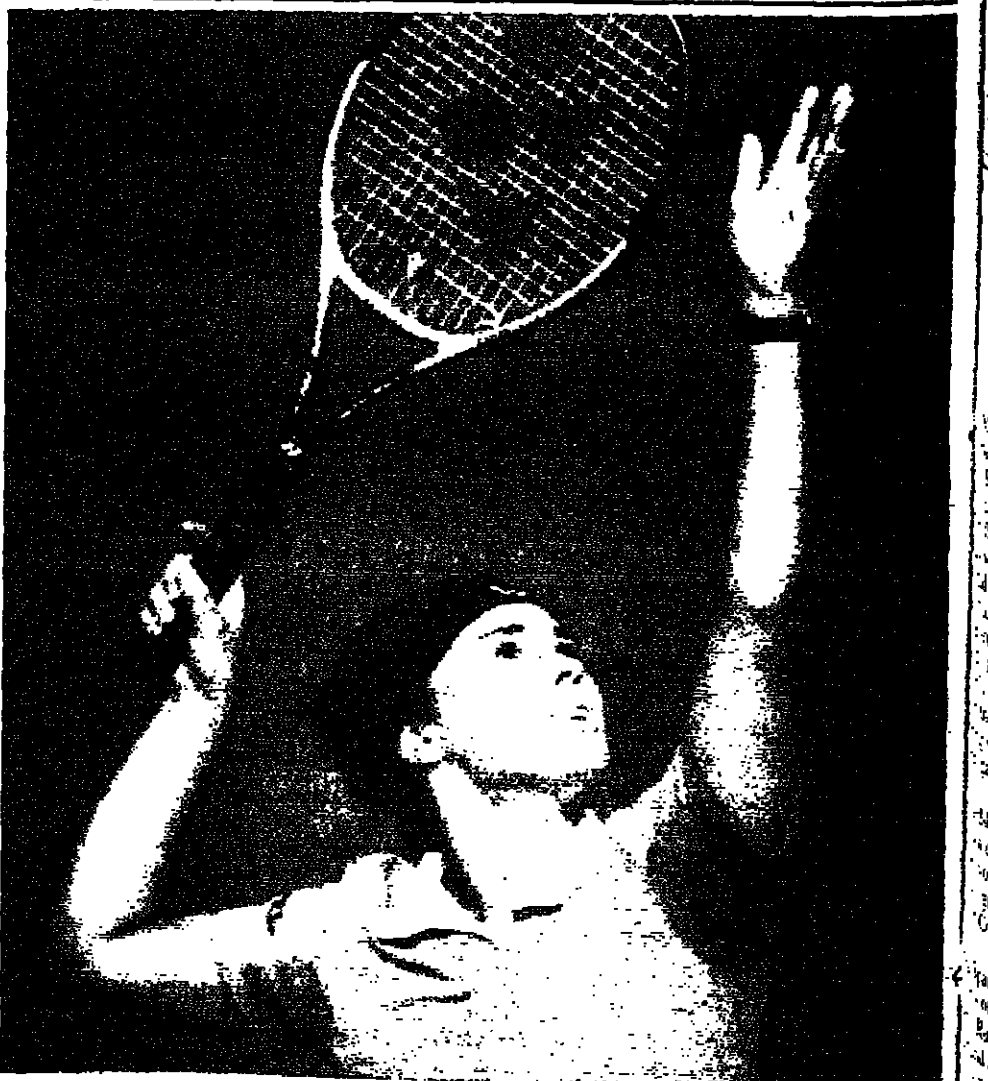
"She played incredible tennis against Steffi and I knew she was really confident," Novotna said. "She was serving really well — aching me and winning her service games quite easily."

Serna broke a string on her racket in the second set and never looked comfortable with her backup weapon.

Novotna, like Graf and Kournikova, has entered the U.S. Hardcourt Championships in New Haven, Connecticut next week, the last tuneup before the U.S. Open in New York, the final grand slam event of the year.

"I'm very impressed by the way I have started to play," Novotna said. "I think as the tournament goes on and the more matches I play, I will get the feeling again."

Hingis, 17, might have expected an easy match because Testud was in her second match of the day after finishing a rain-delayed 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-1 victory over ninth-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania in the morning.



Martina Hingis of Switzerland serves to Sandrine Testud of France. Hingis beat Testud 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4 to move on to the semi-finals (AP photo)

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 PHILADELPHIA '1'	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 PHILADELPHIA '2'	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 PLAZA	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 CONCORD	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 GALLERIA 1	CINEMA TEL: 567-1414 GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yous Theatre TEL: 4625155
	Robert Duvall & Ten Leoni...in	Comedian Adel Imam .. in	Comedian Adel Imam .. in	CONCORD '1' Robert Duvall & Ten Leoni...in	ABDOUN www.cns.com/jo/Galleria	ABDOUN www.cns.com/jo/Galleria	STARTING JULY 13TH
	DEEP IMPACT	AL ZA'EEM	AL ZA'EEM	DEEP IMPACT	GODZILLA	Comedian Adel Imam .. in AL ZA'EEM	The Authority in the Service of the People
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Starring Hisham Yous and the group
			Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '2' BABY'S DAY OUT Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only			For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Nuremberg claim first Bundesliga win in 4 years

BONN (AFP) — Newly-promoted Nuremberg recorded their first win in the German Bundesliga in four years as they won 3-2 at Werder Bremen on Friday. Nuremberg, relegated from the top flight in the 1993/94 season, sealed the win with half-an-hour to go after Bremen were reduced to 10 men. Former German international Jens Todt seemed set to become the home hero after putting his side 2-1 ahead with a fine free-kick after 24 minutes. But he ended up the villain after being sent off for a foul with just 11 minutes to go. Werder Bremen travel to Yugoslavia next week for a crucial return match against Vojvodina in the Intertoto Cup. Bremen won the first game 1-0. The winners qualify for the UEFA Cup. Hansa Rostock drew 3-3 at home with VfL Wolfsburg, with Croatian Igor Panic scoring twice for the home side.

Chinese walker hopes for return as American

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Chen Lueling, China's first Olympic athletics gold medalist with a 10 kilometre walk title at the 1992 Games, plans to come out of retirement and compete as an American. Chen, 25, moved to the United States in 1993 and attending Brigham Young University in Utah. She has lived here since 1994. Chen, who said she expects to become an American citizen sometime in 1999, won in Barcelona in 44 minutes and 32 seconds in the event's Olympic debut.

Makinen in control of Finland Rally

JUVASKYLA (AFP) — Reigning world champion and event favourite Tommi Makinen took control of Rally Finland rally here on Friday as he launched his bid to win the race for the fifth time in a row. While Makinen dominated, as expected, in his Mitsubishi Lancer, former world champion Colin McRae of Scotland was forced out of the event after his rear suspension gave way after a promising start. Makinen sped through the day's nine special stages in 48 minutes 4 seconds, putting him seven seconds ahead of Spaniard Carlos Sainz in a Toyota Corolla. Finn Juha Kankkunen's Ford Escort was third, just over 10 seconds behind the leader. Sainz, the current world championship leader, won the opening stage before McRae took control by winning the next two timed sections. But his Subaru let the road soon after, ending his race. "The back end went out, hit a tree and damaged the rear suspension," he said. The three-day rally finishes in Jyväskylä, central Finland, on Sunday after 24 timed stages.

MLS to use female referees

NEW YORK (AFP) — Sandra Hunt and Nancy Lay have been promoted from assistants to referees by Major League Soccer and will officiate their first matches August, league commissioner Doug Logan said. The MLS follows the lead of the National Basketball Association as the only major North American sports leagues for men with women as referees. "I want to walk away with respect as a referee not just as a woman referee," Lay said. "I want to know I'm competent to officiate at the MLS level." Hunt will be on the pitch when Chicago visits Kansas City. Lay will be in Dallas when the MetroStars visit. "It's an honor," Hunt said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

Washington in U.S. Open field

NEW YORK (AFP) — Lilia Osterloh withdrew her wild card entry into the U.S. Open, allowing fellow American Mashona Washington into the final Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year. United States 1997 collegiate champion Osterloh backed out because she would surpass the WTA Tour limit of three main draw singles wild cards in one year. Washington, the youngest sister of 1996 Wimbledon finalist MaliVai Washington, is ranked 160th.

Penev moves to Celta Vigo

VIGO (AFP) — Bulgarian international Lubo Penev has transferred from Compostela to Celta Vigo for 350 million pesetas (about \$2.3 million) on a one-year contract. Compostela president Jose Maria Caneda confirmed the deal for the 32-year-old striker who has scored more than 100 goals in nine years in Spanish football. Penev, who played at Valencia from 1989 to 1995 and won the Spanish League and Cup double with Atletico Madrid in 1995-1996, transferred to Compostela who were relegated last season.

Krajicek survives thriller to oust Henman



Tim Henman of England tries to return a shot at the net to Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands during the third and final set of their quarterfinal match. Krajicek defeated Henman 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (18-16) (AP photo)

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — Dutchman Richard Krajicek held off eight match points to outlast Britain's Tim Henman and reach the ATP International semi-finals with a dramatic 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (18-16) victory.

Sixth-seeded Henman earned no less than eight match points here Friday, and it was not until the Dutchman held his fourth match point that Henman made the fatal error. "The Briton placed a weak forehand wide to end the two hour and 18 minute battle."

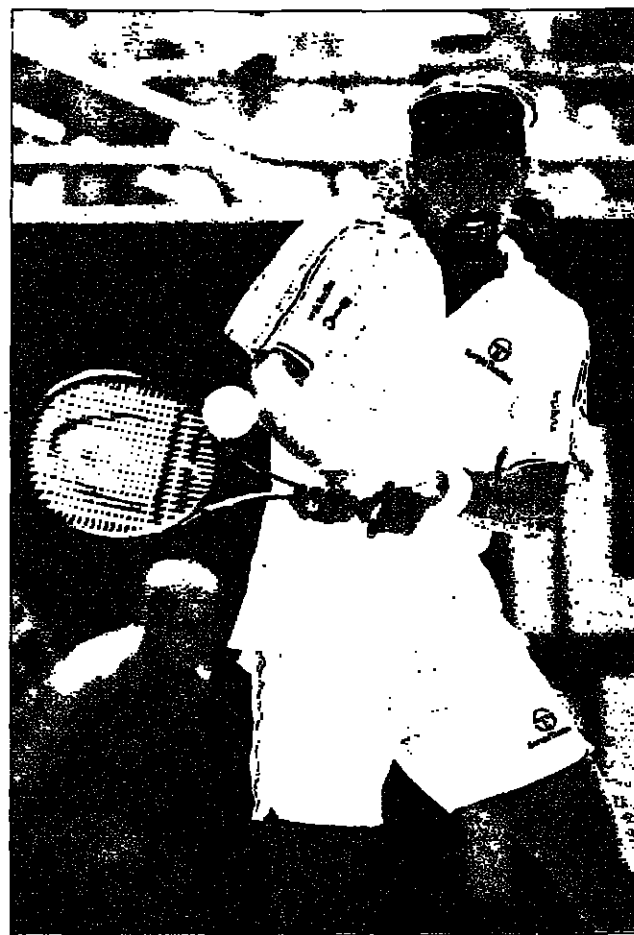
"I played a good match and I don't think I've played a closer one in my career," Henman said. "I've no regrets. I'd want to change a couple of things, but you can't always hit the shots the way you'd like. But I feel very happy with my game going into the U.S. Open."

Krajicek and Henman treated the crowd to a feast of tennis that culminated in a nail-biting 22-minute, 34-point tiebreaker, the longest on the ATP Tour this year.

"Mentally it's pretty tough to play a tiebreak like that," said Krajicek. "There are a couple of moments when you get discouraged. And physically it's pretty tough, but not unbelievable because it was only three sets and not so hot. If it was during the day, 100 degrees and 90 per cent humidity, you could carry me off the court."

Both players had already earned chances in the final set. Leading 3-2, Henman was denied a break with a fine forehand pass from Krajicek, and at 3-3 Krajicek netted a return on break point. Then at 4-3 Henman led 40-0 on Krajicek's serve, but the Dutchman escaped and held another break point of his own at 4-4 but he again netted a return.

Kafelnikov struggled to dominate Ulihrach in a match riddled with unforced errors from both players. He served four double-faults in the opening game, and saved break points on his first two service games of the second set before break-



Goran Ivanisevic of Split, Croatia, returns a shot to Leander Paes of Calcutta, India, during their quarterfinal singles match at the Pilot Pen International men's tennis championship in New Haven, Conn. Ivanisevic defeated Paes 6-2, 6-4 to move to the semifinals (AP photo)

ing to lead 3-1. Gaining a 3-0 lead in the deciding set then gave him the momentum to claim victory.

Paes was unable to follow up his victory over top seed Pete Sampras, ending a week in which he fought through the qualifying rounds and beat Marc Rosset and Sergi Bruguera, as well as Sampras, to enjoy one of the best weeks of his career. In his eagerness to attack, Paes often overhit the ball.

"I was a little tired after playing singles and doubles yesterday," Paes admitted. "But I really think the difference between us was Goran's serve versus mine. He serves a lot better than I did. My plan was just to get the serve back and then let my speed take over. But I struggled to get the serve back, and couldn't really get into a groove of chipping and charging and playing my style of tennis."

Raoux also failed to follow up a big victory after ousting Patrick Rafter in the third round, but pointed out that one upset win didn't mean he could now beat everyone.

"I am not going to beat everybody. I had in my mind that Kucera is better than me on the tour. His ranking is better and I had to be 100 per cent in my legs and in my mind to win. I tried to, but it was not enough."



Karol Kucera of the Czech Republic returns a shot to Guillaume Raoux of France in their quarterfinal match. Kucera defeated Raoux 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the semifinals where he will meet Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands (AP photo)

Rusedski's comeback run ends in quarterfinals

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — A comeback for Britain's Greg Rusedski after last June's ankle injury ended at a \$1 million ATP event here Friday with a 6-4, 6-3 quarterfinal loss to Alex Corretja.

The sixth-seeded Spaniard found the key to the Briton's game early, breaking in the final game of the opening set and again in the final game of the second set.

Rusedski contributed to his own downfall with four major volley errors at the net to give French Open finalist Corretja the edge, 3-1.

The Spaniard advanced on the first of two match points when Rusedski netted a backhand after 63 minutes. "This was a disappointment," said Rusedski. "I had two shaky games and missed those easy volleys. But hopefully next week in Long Island I'll get more matches and even more at the U.S. Open."

"Alex played really solid. I couldn't hurt him on his serve. Today, I disappointed myself."

Andre Agassi rushed through in just 51 minutes over South Africa's Wayne Ferreira — then took relaxation time at the local laundromat.

While Agassi could have his clothes cleaned by the hotel like the rest of his peers, the American seems



Sixth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain hits a backhand during his quarterfinal match against Greg Rusedski of Great Britain at the RCA Championships in Indianapolis. Corretja won the match 6-4, 6-3 (AP photo).

to prefer to get his hands dirty. "The first thing I have to do before the match is my laundry," Agassi said. "Be hard to win playing naked, you know."

"It needs to smell good," he said of his tennis laundry needs. "You can smell if you want. I can do it better than the courts or the hotel

can do it. It comes back all wrinkled."

The seeded pair of winners were joined in the quarter-finals by American Todd Martin, who beat Hicham Arazi of Morocco 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (13/11) to book a date with Corretja in Saturday's semi-finals.

Martin is not bothered by searing summer heat. "In this weather, I have to think I'm 100 per cent," said a player who spent much of last year out of the game after elbow surgery.

"Before each match I have to ice and warm up, but it doesn't take much to get warm here. After hitting the first few balls of the morning, my elbow's out of my mind."

Paraguay's Ramon Delgado, 21, took on the tournament victory hopes of South America after Thursday's elimination of Chilean Marcelo Rios.

He reached his first career semi-final by beating Rios' conqueror, Byron Black of Zimbabwe, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.

Delgado produced 16 aces and saved all but two of the six break points against his serve to advance into a semi-final with Agassi.

BASEBALL RESULTS

National League

Chicago Cubs	6	San Francisco	5
St Louis	10	NY Mets	5 (1st Gm)
NY Mets	1	St Louis	0 (2nd Gm)
Los Angeles	5	Florida	1
Colorado	3	Montreal	2
Pittsburgh	14	Cincinnati	2
Philadelphia	1	Arizona	0
Atlanta	5	San Diego	4
Houston	5	Milwaukee	2

American League

Kansas City	6	Tampa Bay	5 (11 Innings)
Cleveland	6	Baltimore	3
Boston	9	Minnesota	2
NY Yankees	5	Texas	0
Toronto	9	Anaheim	4
Seattle	5	White Sox	4
Oakland	4	Detroit	2

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS CQJ105 OA1065 AK984
- The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 1A INT ? What action do you take?
- Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable as South you hold:
- A765 CA10542 OA AK983
- The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 1A INT ? What action do you take?
- Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AAK63 CAQ872 OAS AAS ? What is your opening bid?
- Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AAJ8 C1093 OAKJ10985 AVOID
- Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AVOID C875 OA10984 AK76
- The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH NORTH EAST WEST 3A 3NT DBI ? What action do you take?
- Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AAK6 CAJ73 OK AAJ872
- The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH NORTH EAST WEST 1A Pass 10 ? What do you bid now?

FOR RENT

DELUXE FURNISHED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT Located in Abdoun, very near to the Orthodox Church, 9 Amin El Momany Street. Consists of 3 bedrooms and utilities, separate entrance, French windows with a garden, car park, glassed big veranda, separate heating plus AC. Split unit cooling and heating. Period of rent: Annual, monthly or any period. For more information call Tel.: 5928092, 5920019

Teacher Needed

MODERN AMERICAN SCHOOL

Secretary Wanted

Minimum qualifications: * Computer Skills. * Fluency in English & Arabic. * Five years experience in office management in the capacity of executive secretary.

Please send C.V. in English to Fax: 5865182 (office in Shmeisani)

JORDAN TIMES E-MAIL: jotimes@go.com.jo
TELEPHONE: 5684311, 5699634
FAX: 5696183

Pharmaceutical plant designed, built and run by Jordanians

'Bombed factory was incapable of making chemical arms'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN— Jordanian experts who supervised the construction of a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan, destroyed by U.S. missiles Thursday, said Saturday that the site had no capability to produce chemical weapons.

Ahmad Salem, the engineer who put together the construction plan for Al Shifa plant in Khartoum in 1993, said the factory was designed to produce more than 50 types of medicine for malaria, tuberculosis, antibiotics and other diseases in addition to veterinary drugs.

"There is no chance this factory could be used to produce chemical weapons. It was designed to produce medicine for people and animals," Salem told a press conference on Saturday.

Salem was among three Jordanians who were involved in the establishment of the factory which was inaugurated on July 1997. The other two are Eid Abu Dalbough, a pharmacist, and Mohammed Abdul Wahed, the engineer who designed the equipment used to produce the medicines.

The U.S. claimed that the plant, built at a cost of more than \$32 million, was engaged in making chemical weapons and was partly financed by Osama Ben Laden, the Afghan-based Saudi millionaire whom Washington accuses of being responsible for the attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania earlier this month.

Salem said the factory was financed by the Sudanese businessman Bashir Hassan, who later sold it to another businessman named Salah Idris following financial difficulties.

"During the construction of the plant, over a period of four years, we have never seen or met with Ben Laden and he had nothing to do with the factory," Salem



File photo of Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir opens the Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant in Khartoum on July 12 1997, accompanied by Jordanian engineer Eid Abu Dalbough (center) who oversaw construction and operation of the plant (Reuters photo)

Jordanian experts: 'Ben Laden had nothing to do with the factory'

Salem said.

"What I know for sure is that he was not linked to this factory neither financially, nor administratively. He has never seen or visited the plant," he added.

He noted that the factory was opened in the presence of the British ambassador in Khartoum at the time and other foreign dignitaries.

Salem noted that an American expert, named Henry Jobe, participated in the construction of the plant turned to rubble by U.S. missiles.

He said that the plant exported medicines to African nations and was planning to send medicines to Iraq in line with the oil-for-food agreement reached between Baghdad and the U.N. in December 1996.

Abu Dalbough, who completed his work at the plant in November 1997, said that it was difficult to produce nerve gas as "alleged" by the U.S. "because the

plant was designed to produce medicine and nothing but medicine."

"Any plan to produce toxic (gas) needs a separate line in the plant, separate ventilation, separate building and special pipes. Our facilities were not fit for such production," Abu Dalbough stressed.

He said that an expert representing the World Health Organisation (WHO) inspected the plant in December 1997.

He added that on Friday he telephoned a Jordanian expert, Ali Jaber, who is still working at the factory "who confirmed to me that no changes were introduced to the plant to enable it to change its production in the past few months."

"If the factory was producing nerve gas as stated by the Americans, why is it that it did not cause massive damage in the area which was heavily populated?" Salem asked.

"This is enough evidence that the plant was not producing nerve gas as claimed by the U.S.," he added.

He noted that some of the equipment used at the factory were supplied by Swedish, American, Danish, Belgium and other foreign firms.

Salem said that the reconstruction of the plant would take three years, "if financial support was available."

He added that a Jordanian team had been selected to supervise the construction and production activities of the plant "because the owner had connections with Jordanian pharmaceutical firms which used to export medicines to the east African nation."

"The factory's plan was designed in Jordan and Jordanian experts supervised its construction. From a technical point of view it is difficult to produce other than medicines in Al Shifa factory," said Abdul Wahed.

Report: Three confess Ben Laden links, detail attack preparations

By Laura King

NAIROBI (AP) — Few people would pay any mind to a trio of fishermen peddling their Indian Ocean catch among the restaurants of downtown Nairobi. That may have been the idea.

According to a Kenyan newspaper, three men in the custody of Kenyan authorities confessed that they used the trade as a cover to case the U.S. Embassy while planning a devastating car bombing — operating with the backing of alleged terror financier Osama Ben Laden.

Neither Kenyan police nor FBI officials investigating the bombing would comment on the report Saturday in the Daily Nation, which said the three suspects acknowledged filming the embassy in Nairobi days before the Aug. 7 bombing, which killed 247 people and injured more than 5,000 others.

Another 10 people died in a nearly simultaneous blast targeting the U.S. Embassy in Dar Es Salaam, in neighbouring Tanzania.

The report publicly named two of the suspects for the first time: Khalid Salim, a Yemeni; and Abdullah Nacha, said to be Lebanese. U.S. and Kenyan officials had already identified another suspect in custody as Mohammed Saddiq Odeh.

Odeh was arrested in Pakistan the day of the bombings and returned to Nairobi a week later. Days later, FBI agents and Kenyan detectives raided a hotel in a busy commercial neighbourhood in Nairobi, about 1.5 kilometres from the embassy, to look for evidence that it had been used as a staging ground for the attack.

The other two men were arrested after Odeh reportedly told police that they were his accomplices.

Under questioning, the three confessed that with Ben

Laden's financial backing, they plotted the bombing while using the cover of work as fish merchants from the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa, the newspaper account said.

Such a business would provide a ready explanation for transporting cargo between the coastal region and Kenya's capital, and for frequenting the downtown district where the embassy was located.

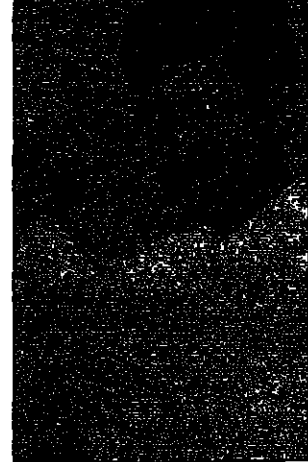
The report, coupled with a raid by investigators in a coastal town on Friday, suggested that the environs of Mombasa — east Africa's major port, a trade centre for centuries, frequented by seagoing freighters and small wooden dhows alike — were becoming a focus of the probe.

Witnesses reported that FBI agents and Kenyan police raided a home Friday in the coastal town of Malindi, conducting a three-hour search of a house in a slum district and detaining the homeowner. The FBI and Kenyan police also declined to comment on that raid.

On the political front, both the Kenyan and Tanzanian governments remained conspicuously silent about U.S. cruise missile strikes on targets in Sudan and Afghanistan, sites that the Clinton administration said had links to Ben Laden. Even before Thursday's U.S. strikes, many Kenyans had expressed fears that their country could become a venue for fresh attacks by those who carried out the embassy bombings. Those worries intensified with the U.S. reprisal raids.

"America, like any other country, has the right to protect its citizens," said an editorial Saturday in the East Africa Standard. "But America must also ensure that the innocent are not made to suffer because of its quarrel with its enemies."

In Pakistan, a national newspaper quoted a statement given to it in Ben Laden's name by an associate as saying "the war has just started" against



Khalid Salim, an Yemeni who Thursday was positively identified by three witnesses as the smiling assassin who threw a grenade just prior to the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi last week. Khalid was with two others, it is claimed, who died in the bombing. Sources say the three drove the pick-up truck packed with TNT from their base at the Hill Top Hotel to the embassy in the heart of the central business district. Police arrested him in the city on the day of the bombing. Khalid, police say, also took part in filming the embassy building three days before the raid. The report in the Nation newspaper also publicly identified two of the suspects for the first time (AP photo)

American interests.

Despite the decisive U.S. action against Ben Laden, investigators on the ground have been much more reluctant to showcase their conclusions.

FBI Director Louis Freeh, who visited both bombed-out embassies, said Friday in Nairobi that "no final conclusions" had been reached about who carried out the attacks.

'I'm going to do it one minute at a time'

BOSTON (R) — All it took was a few days on an island paradise and hundreds of e-mails to restore the resolve of a Frenchman trying to swim from Massachusetts to France. "Yes, I'm going to do it. I'm going to do it one minute at a time," Benoit Lecomte said via satellite phone from his boat anchored in the Azores. Lecomte, 31, had suffered a crisis of confidence 10 days ago as he neared the halfway point of his journey across the Atlantic Ocean, saying "the water is my enemy now."

Beach weekend for gays and lesbians

DAYTONA BEACH (R) — Daytona Beach is going forward with a beach weekend expected to draw 20,000 gay and lesbian tourists, despite the fury, threats and boycotts levelled at nearby Orlando and Disney World for allowing gays to hold earlier events. "Sure, there was concern about boycotts," said Sharon Mock, executive director of Daytona's Convention and Visitors Bureau. "But discrimination is discrimination, and it's just not right." Beachfest, a three-day spring break-like event aimed at gays and lesbians, began Friday and was expected to rake in \$6 million to \$8 million for local hotels, restaurants and vendors.

Julie will share her sex change via the Internet

TEQUESTA (R) — Later this year, Julie will complete a journey that has taken most of her 49 years, undergoing a sex change operation to convert her genitalia from male to female. She plans to share it with the world live via the Internet. The Internet company she is working with deals in adult Web sites as well as an array of pay-per-call phone services, but she and the company say the motives of their venture are pure: to inform, to educate and perhaps even to save lives.

PM is dad again and already grandpa

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen, 56, became a father again Friday less than a year after becoming a grandfather. Lipponen's second wife and long-time companion, 30-year-old schoolteacher Paivi Hertzberg, gave birth here to a baby girl. The couple were married in January. Lipponen's daughter from his first marriage, who lives in Sweden, presented him with his first grandchild last winter.

R.E.M. cancels tour

ATLANTA (AP) — R.E.M. is cancelling a tour to promote its new album, *Automatic*. Manager Bertis Downs said the decision Thursday was based on the loss of longtime drummer Bill Berry and the remaining members' reluctance to look in their time for a year. Berry left the band last fall. R.E.M.'s whose new album "Up" is scheduled for release in October, will concentrate on TV appearances and independent projects instead, Downs said.

Andy Williams goes home for visit

DES MOINES (AP) — Andy Williams' romantic tunes have echoed around the world. On Saturday, the 70-year-old singer will play to a much smaller audience in Wall Lake, Iowa — population 875 — for the first time in 63 years to attend the dedication of his birthplace as a historic site. "I'm bringing my whole family down there," he said.

Hebron clashes continue; Palestinian injured by Israeli rubber coated bullets

HEBRON (AFP) — A Palestinian demonstrator was injured by rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers during a clash with stone-throwing Palestinian protesters in this West Bank town Saturday, witnesses said.

Demonstrators pelted Israeli soldiers with stones and the troops responded with rubber bullets as tensions mounted in Hebron after the fatal stabbing of a 63-year-old rabbi.

Palestinian police intervened to keep the demonstrators away from Israeli-controlled areas of Hebron, most of which is ruled by the Palestinian National Authority.

Tensions have been high in this city of 120,000 since Shlomo Raanan, 63, a prominent militant and grandson of Israel's first chief rabbi, was stabbed Thursday by a Palestinian who broke into his mobile home in Tel Rumeida, an isolated quarter settlement to the most radical elements of Hebron's 400-strong Jewish settler community.



Israeli soldier aims his gun to shoot at Palestinian stone-throwers Saturday after clashes broke out when Israel enacted a curfew for the second day in a row in the Israeli controlled part of the city (Reuters photo)

The attacker tried to set the mobile home alight before fleeing.

The army responded to the murder by barring all entry and exit from the city and imposing a curfew on

Palestinian areas adjacent to the Jewish settler enclave which are still under Israeli control.

Before the curfew took effect, dozens of Jewish militants rampaged through the Arab quarter, beating

Palestinians and sending two people to the hospital. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday announced permanent houses would be built in Tel Rumeida in place of the mobile homes.

For a documentary entitled 'Shooters'

AFP photographer looks for Israeli soldier who shot him

EL BIREH (AFP) — An AFP photographer began searching on Saturday for the unknown Israeli soldier who shot him during a West Bank riot as part of a documentary reflecting on violence and the role of journalists covering it.

The film, titled "Shooters," will try to reconstruct events on September 26, 1996 when Manoocher Deghati was shot in the leg as he covered Palestinian rioting over Israel's opening of an archaeological tunnel near Jerusalem's Al Aqsa

Mosque complex, Islam's third holiest site.

During three days of riots, more than 80 Palestinian and Israeli soldiers were killed, including a Palestinian cameraman. A dozen Palestinian journalists were wounded by bullets.

"The documentary will try to arrange a meeting and a reconciliation with the shooter, who could well be an Israeli soldier, since I was with a group of demonstrators near an army position when I was hit," said the 43-year-old Deghati.

"The idea is to try to understand the motives of whoever pulled the trigger as a way to reflect on violence, war, and the role of the journalist."

The documentary, directed by Ana Coyne Alonso, has been commissioned by several American television stations.

Filming began Saturday where Deghati was shot during a riot in El Bireh, near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

During the film, Deghati will meet with the families of a Palestinian and of an

Israeli soldier who were shot and killed on the same day.

Deghati spent a year-and-a-half recovering from his wound at a hospital in Paris.

The photographer, Iranian by birth and stateless for 15 years, received French citizenship after French President Jacques Chirac visited him in hospital.

Before becoming the photo chief at AFP's Jerusalem bureau, Deghati was posted to Central America and Cairo.

Iran, France aim to improve ties

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and France spoke Saturday of their "political will" to improve relations in all fields, despite a "divergence of views" on the issue of human rights.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi told a press conference here with his French counterpart Hubert Vedrine that the two countries disagreed notably on the case of Salman Rushdie, the British author condemned to death for alleged blasphemy against Islam.

"It is natural for our two countries to have divergent views on this subject," Kharazi said. "Positions of countries are dictated by their values and principles, which are not necessarily identical."

"I have to say that we cannot reach agreements on all issues in our negotiations," he added.

Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a "fatwa," or religious decree, in 1989 demanding Rushdie be killed on the grounds that he had insulted Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The fatwa led to a politi-

cal and at times diplomatic dispute between Iran and the European Union (EU), which wants it revoked. Iran has spurned such requests on the grounds that the decree is sacred and unchangeable.

Kharazi said, however, that Tehran and Paris were "in agreement" on almost all other issues. "We have reached an accord on most issues and I am sure that this visit will contribute to rapprochement and development of relations between our two countries," he said.

Vedrine, who arrived late Friday for a two-day visit, did not point to any problems arising in the first round of talks Saturday morning, but spoke of his intention "to discuss it all."

He nevertheless pledged that his country planned "to develop relations and economic cooperation with Iran." "We hope French companies will have access to favourable conditions to engage in activities based on mutual interests," he said.

Vedrine said his visit was primarily aimed at resuming dialogue with the Islamic Republic, suspended

by the EU in April 1996 after a German court implicated Tehran in the 1992 murder of four dissidents in Berlin.

The Iranian side is interested in cooperating with France in nuclear energy, civil aviation, agriculture and health, according to French sources. On the political front, Tehran wants greater French involvement in the Middle East, notably an alliance between Iran, France and Lebanon.

Kharazi said France and Iran could strike new deals on oil and gas cooperation if they manage to improve political relations. "There are new oil projects and the conditions are favourable for signing new contracts," he said.

"We favour developing economic relations with countries with whom we have a convergence of views on political matters," Kharazi said. "There exist major potentialities in the fields of oil and gas, and it is natural that deepening political relations paves the way for developing economic relations."

U.N. chief 'deeply concerned' about Iranian prisoners in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is "deeply concerned" about Iranian prisoners in Afghanistan, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The United Nations has been in contact with the Taliban — Islamists who hold most of Afghanistan — Pakistani authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross, said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard.

"Unfortunately these contacts have not yet produced

positive results," Eckhard said in a statement.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi had asked Annan to intervene on behalf of the captured Iranians, who he said had been mistreated.

Tehran has accused the Taliban of grabbing the Iranians, who were in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif when it fell. Kharazi said the prisoners were 11 Iranian diplomats and one journalist but reports out of Tehran had previously put the number at 10 diplomats and the

journalist. The Taliban has denied holding them.

"The secretary general would like to remind whoever is involved that the diplomatic status of these Iranians must be respected," the statement said. "The secretary general appeals to all parties concerned, in particular the Taliban, to help find these missing people and assist in their safe return to Iran."

The Security Council urged the release of the group last week.

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Noor and King Hussein D.C. after the King's chemotherapy which sources said that the treatment and leave for a few days of the treatment. Tarawneh and Roy to leave Amman King.

Sudan
cher
U.N. offi

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese and United officials on Sunday via medicine factory destroyed U.S. missile strike injured 10 people.

"We are very concerned about this incident," Philippe Borel, United Nations coordinator, said, "We are very concerned about this incident."

The United States on Sunday launched the raids what it called "terrorist" attacks in Afghanistan and in retaliation for the bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania this month in which more than 260 people died.

Sudan said the factory was not involved in producing poisons for chemical war, nor was it linked to Osama Ben Laden, an Afghanist

Islamist that Washington accused of financing and using the embassy bombings. Sudan has asked for details from the U.S. Co

and the United Nations to see whether the evidence it was using making chemical weapons.

Abdul Aziz Shenoua, a Sudan Parliament Speaker, said he was "not a victim" and the United States has to own people and international community prove its allegations," he said.

The rubble is here, investigating committee is come to come and search itself. This was not an self-defence but an act of terrorism," he said, referring to the Sudan government's demolition of the Kenyan embassy in Khartoum.

He said if U.S. President Clinton "would lie to his nose and his family" about an with former White House Mexico Lewinsky, "would equally lie about

Sudanese
10 for pl
president

A SUDANESE court killed 10 people for trying to assassinate Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government Khartoum newspapers

Sunday. They said the court imposed sentences ranging from five to 10 years on the accused, of whom was tried in

advance. It acquitted five because lack of evidence and a year-old man because of

The papers did not say who the verdict was delivered. The group, headed by Mohamed Khajali and brother Salah, was arrested September. They were charged with undermining a constitution, carrying assassinations and having dealings with hostile co

They were also accused planning to plant explosives in Sudan's main towns and planning an armed uprising from Erroma. Sudan has accused Erit